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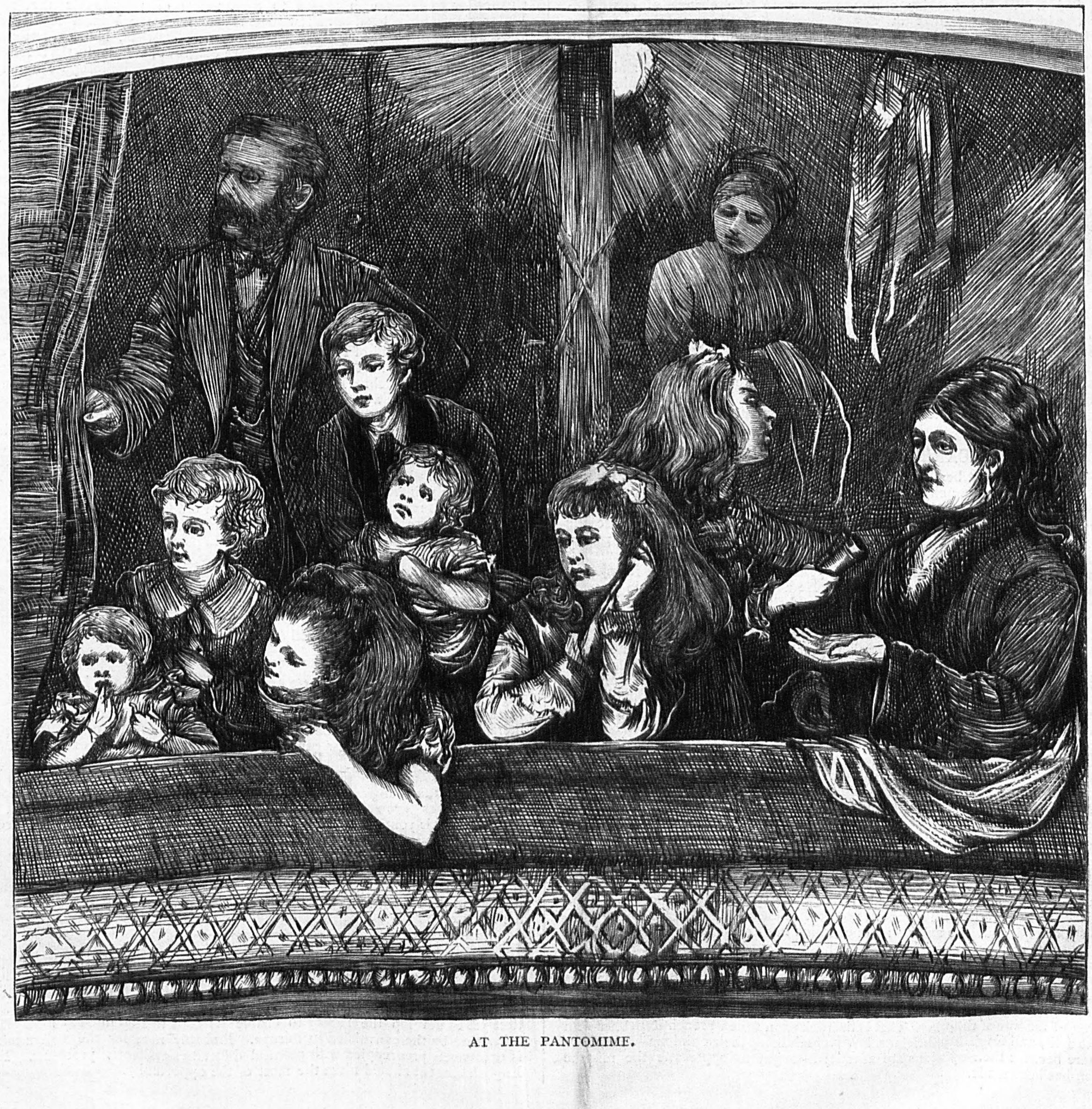
AT THE PANTOMIME.

They are evidently gazing on some striking, fairy-like development of the opening story, this family group in our picture. When the persecuted hero and heroine are married in the Halls of Bliss, and the harlequinade begins, the children will be convulsed with laughter. Pater and Mater will think about their pantomime days, and feel some sensations of past joys in the noisy delight of their children. It is a picture of universal interest, a children's box at the theatre just now. The story is repeated in every large town in the kingdom. "Here we are again!" is as full of mirthful significance to-day as it was when the first clown tumbled upon the stage and assaulted the first Pantaloon. The young people whom our artist has depicted will always have pleasant memories of the days when the Pantomime had charms for them beyond all other entertainments. It is almost criminal to disturb this happiness by even a suggestion of sorrow; but it comes before us big and black, and startling, the shadow of France at this season of dramatic revelry. It is a very sad transformation scene, from this English theatre in our opening picture to that of a Metz performance on our fortieth page.



AT THE PANTOMIME.

THE CONFERENCE AND WAR.

The best and highest, the least selfish and most advanced feeling of Great Britain with regard to war and the disputes of nations should find expression just now, while the London Conference is sitting. We are swayed to and fro at times by the old passions of our race, and by our ancient traditions of conflict and victory. Our sympathy now and then carries us a long way out of the track which the country has in not altogether indecipherable lines marked out for itself. Yet all the while a new creed has been growing up among us year by year, and upon the whole its influence is not overthrown, even by the stupendous events of the last few months. This country only among nations has ceased to look upon war as a necessity. This people only have learned to regard the makers of war for any purposes of their own, however desirable in themselves, as criminal. The new British faith has not quite resolved itself into a formula, but in general terms it amounts to this: that we are guided by rules which, if the same rules were adopted by all other Governments, would render war practically an impossibility. We are prepared by force of arms, if necessary, to prevent any Power from committing a gross act of injustice towards either ourselves or those whom we have led to rely upon us for protection; but it is not within the lines of probability that we should attempt to do anything which would compel any other country, in the cause of right and justice, to step in and seek by force to hinder us; and there is no conceivable scheme of aggrandisement, or ambition, or even of benevolence, upon which we might be disposed to enter in the interests of civilization, that we should insist upon carrying out if it were essential to its accomplishment that we should do battle with some other nation. Let us try ourselves by the occurrences of the present war. In the place of Prussia, we should not have permitted a member of our Royal Family to accept the nomination to the throne of Spain if we had reason to believe that the act would arouse the susceptibilities of a neighbouring people. In the place of France, we would not have insisted, to the extent of threatening war, upon the withdrawal of that candidature. In the place of the Count von Bismarck, we should not have hinted that the words made use of by the Duc de Gramont upon the announcement of the acceptance of the candidature of Prince Leopold were equivalent to a *casus belli*. In France's position, we would not have refused to be satisfied with the withdrawal of the candidature. And if we had had to decide for the Germans during the campaign we should have made peace with France, on such terms as the new Government at Paris were plainly willing to assent to, after the battle of Sedan. We do not lay ourselves open to the chance of contradiction when we say that at any time since Napoleon III. was taken prisoner, if the King of Prussia had been guided by the sentiments which in similar circumstances would have actuated the British Government he would have closed this horrible war before its worst horrors had begun, and would probably have concluded a treaty far more likely to prevent the outbreak of hostilities between those two nations in the future than anything that will be done when, pressed beyond further resistance or endurance, the French people shall at length yield to the superior power of Germany. Looking back upon the European wars of late years we find in every case that they would not have happened had the modern British ideas with regard to warfare possessed the minds of the Powers concerned. Great Britain would not have robbed Denmark or overrun Hanover for the sake of national unity. She would not for her own ends have driven Austria by force out of Germany. She would not have gone into Italy in 1859 to compel the rendition of a portion of old Italy to the Italians. For such of these objects as were worthy and desirable she would have striven by other means, trusting to win in the end without resorting to the barbarous wager of battle. That is the ground this country stands upon in these modern days, and it would be well if we allowed the principle to guide us in the expression of our views upon foreign affairs, at this juncture, when the disputants in a European quarrel are sitting round a table in the British metropolis, seeking to settle their difficulties by amicable arrangement. It is a ray of hope for Europe, like a streak of morning light in a horribly dark sky, to know that, of all places in the world, the great Congress of the Powers is being held in London. May we take the fact as an augury of the prevalence by-and-by of a nobler, a more humane, a more advanced sentiment in continental courts and among continental peoples on the subject of international differences and war!

REPUBLICANISM AND THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.

Would it not be best to keep separate the sympathy which the English people feel for the French nation and the regard which some of them entertain towards the French Republic? France gains nothing, and perhaps loses much by the confusion of the two sentiments; while England, by the same process, is likely to get herself greatly misunderstood. In this country there is perfect freedom of opinion; and if anybody thinks a Republican form of Government is necessarily a beautiful and admirable thing, he may express his views in any form which may commend itself to his mind. He needs not go to work in a roundabout way. Let him come forward boldly and challenge public opinion among his own countrymen on the relative merits of Republicanism and Royalty. There is plenty of room here to discuss the problem, and he will not want for champions on the other side to break a spear with him. But it does not raise the English Republican in the estimation of his fellow-countrymen to find him holding his peace about the form of his own government, and attempting to make fictitious capital on the side of his political views, by so confounding his sympathy for the sufferings and humiliation of the French with his anxiety for the success of the new form of Government adopted in Paris on the fall of the Emperor, as to leave it doubtful where one leaves off and the other begins. And does not the very cause these too zealous advocates have at heart lose a good deal by that indirect mode of favouring Republican views? To thousands, and, indeed, to millions of persons, who might not otherwise be prejudiced on the question, French Republicanism, independently of the merits of the political question on the one side or the other, has been from first to last a lamentable spectacle. It has taken its stand upon a political dogma, and occupied its position, not upon the strength of public opinion but in spite of it. Philosophical writers have laid it down as an axiom that the form of Government should be in accordance with the general feeling of the entire people, and wanting that sanction no form would be strictly right. The speculative Republican, if he wishes to keep right with advanced political science, cannot afford to disregard that principle, but the axiom is one which has always been ignored by the opponents of Royalty and Imperialism in France; though, it must be admitted, not always without certain wholesome results. French Republicanism is an arbitary article of political faith, and the Frenchman would consider he was doing a noble thing in the great cause to establish a Republic by whatever means, if there were not more than a hundred or a dozen of his fellow countrymen of his way of thinking. That is the rock upon which French Republicanism has split, and English politicians, however advanced their opinions—and all the more because their opinions are advanced—ought to appreciate the mistake that has been made.

TABLE TALK.

What has become of the purely speculative faculty? Neither in society nor in books are the old abstract questions kept moving. Is it because we are unhappily plunged into a period of war, and that if we set aside the conflict of armies for a moment, political questions swallow up all others? These conditions do not to our mind afford an explanation. Neither does the fact that certain philosophers have arrived at conclusions tending to discourage as useless the study of the old philosophical problems. A conviction of the fruitlessness of ontological research does not unmake the speculative mind. Montaigne was not less philosophical because of the marvellously clear consciousness he had that there was nothing whatever for the human intellect to discover. M. Auguste Comte, when he arrived at the end of his abstract investigations, and demonstrated that inquiry beyond the region of sense was vain, developed into a pursuer of visions. He who was grandly superior to the influences of the inspiration of those who had gone before, became himself spiritually illuminated, and dictated dogmas like the prophets. Speculation is a matter of function in men, and a matter, it seems, dependent upon unseen forces as to time. It comes and goes, and we wonder neither at its coming nor at its going until something makes us sensible of the change by calling to mind what was before and is not now. Naturally it is not every one who is pleased with the passing away, even for a time, of old subjects of literary thought and converse. The cycles of habits of mind in society are rather long, and we must live to be very old men before the problems which deeply interested us in youth come into fashion again. Perhaps it is well that what is called the practical should have its day, but it is at a great expense. It is not pleasing to observe men of great intelligence and large culture turning away impatiently at the suggestion of a purely abstract idea. If they had all arrived at some definite conclusion on the great question of noumena and phenomena, and could give a brief but sufficient reason for refusing to consider questions relating to the secret of existence, there would be no ground to complain; but for aught that most of them know, the field of metaphysics might be virgin ground, and yet their footsteps are never attracted to the once fascinating region. Who inquires now into the validity of the line of argument pursued in Butler's "Analogy"? Whom do we meet prepared to pin his adversary down to Locke's "Essay," or to provide an ingenious passage of escape from the inexorable grip of the old philosopher's theory of innate ideas? Brougham is but just dead, and there are not many to be found who recollect the positions the versatile Lord Chancellor took up with regard to most points of philosophic theology. Victor Cousin has been but a few years absent from the French intellectual salons, and people have forgotten the meaning of Eclecticism. Harriet Martineau is still with us, and her own generation have outgrown, seemingly, the recollection of the reading with which she used to supply them. Philosophic inquiry, somehow, got lost a few years ago in the lunatic and contemptible ways of what is now known as spiritualism, and it has become discreditable to say anything more about the abstract and the mysterious. John Stuart Mill, the only speculative giant of the day, is unhappily lost to the world of pure thought since he yielded himself up to the claims of politics; and Herbert Spencer is not qualified to be a great leader. There are many made silent now by the fashion and tendency of the time, whose mental fires will blaze up again at the advent of the new philosopher—if, haply, there be one in the schools, preparing to take the now vacant chair of Hobbes, Locke, Hume, and Hamilton.

While some of us may be vexed that our hobbies are not in the race, it is impossible not to admit that there is good reason for the extreme predominance of political questions. Society is getting itself reorganised. We have just entered upon a new period of administrative government, and the practical questions which arise at every step tax to the utmost the thought, the ingenuity, and the suggestiveness of the generation. The period which ended with the passing of the Reform Bill of 1867 was a very tiresome one, and most people were weary of it. To be for twenty or thirty years disputing on a few constitutional questions was too much. The whole political mind of the country had got into the way of moving in a couple of circles, grinding old arguments and instances. There is reason to be thankful that the days of constitution-mending are pretty well past for the time, and that those of repairing, renewing, and reforming the machinery of life in society have begun. The exercise will, no doubt, act beneficially upon the political character of our countrymen. There is a novelty in the matters which come up for consideration which is very refreshing. At one time we pointed to the blessings and grievances of the existing state of things only as reasons why we should retain an old Government—which would probably preserve them—or get a new one, which would most likely abolish them. Now we look at them as objects of immediate inquiry and probability of change, and ask one another what is the best thing to do, and how to do it at once. For some long time to come, perhaps, we shall be thus occupied, there being much arrears of legislative and administrative work to do, so long neglected while we were occupied on the structure of the Constitution. Still there will be a reaction long before even the more urgent part of the work is accomplished, and intellectuality for its own sake will spring into renewed activity.

When we take up and discourse upon literary topics of the kind which engaged our attention for a short time in this column last week we are led to introduce names which are familiar enough to the ardent student of English literature, past and present, but which are often names and nothing more to the casual readers of the new generation. The habit of reading only the newspapers and the magazines and books of the season increases apace, and very soon, at the rate we are going at, the writers of one quarter of a century will be unknown to the young readers of the next. With marvellous quickness already do the works grow out of date! To the old man who has been a reader from his youth it is scarcely credible that Shelley and Moore and Scott and Campbell are put on the back shelves and that Gibbon's has become but a work of reference to the readers of this generation; and yet it is almost equally true that Macaulay is gradually ceasing to be seen in the hands of the young, and even the great Thackeray, transcendant only yesterday, is not familiar in the salient modes of his thought to the latest army of subscribers to the libraries.

It will certainly fall to the lot of England to take a prominent lead in Europe, in art, letters, and culture, during the next few years. The help we have had from France in science and from Germany in criticism must be to a great extent withdrawn for a season. It remains to be seen whether Italy will have had time yet to develop the faculty to enable its sons to step into any high place left vacant by the convulsion in Europe. Probably not; for the Italian mind is excessively preoccupied with political difficulties and social problems. The English student should make the most of the opportunity.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

WHEN the notorious John Wilkes, on one occasion, had to listen to the stories of some person who had the virtue of prolixity in telling them, without the power of giving to them any pith or point, and some mutual friend excused the story-teller, saying he had got to his dotage, Wilkes replied, "*Dotage*, Sir! I tell you he is past dotage, he has got to *anecdotage!*" The person thus criticised one might be pardoned for crediting with the editorship of "The World of Moral and Religious Anecdote," just published by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton. Mr. Edwin Paxton Hood, we presume, would scout the relationship. He has nevertheless, produced a very notable exhibition of anecdotage. The dullest stories and the longest ever collected together appear in the work before us. For preachers on the look-out for solemn illustrations of solemn subjects, Mr. Hood's book may be a useful companion. It will also be found excellent Sunday reading in families where the newspaper is tabooed on the Sabbath. There is one feature in the work that deserves warm praise. It is furnished with an excellently arranged index and reference to works quoted by the compiler. Mr. Hood, in a well written preface, expresses his surprise that the history of the Church in all ages has not been told in a series of anecdotes. He thinks that a better idea of Church life in any epoch might be obtained from an incident than from a dissertation; "indeed this is always so—anecdote is the only history."

Apropos of the Beethoven anniversary Messrs. Charles Griffin and Co. have issued a memoir of the unfortunate composer by Elliott Graeme, with an introductory essay by Dr. Ferdinand Hiller, of Cologne. The work is carefully written, but it is only a summary of a life. This is a mistake, for the author shows himself quite capable of writing as complete a biography as the subject deserves. The world is already in possession of the story of Beethoven's early experiences and trials, and this is perhaps the most interesting period of his life. As a rule, we know next to nothing of great men before they are famous. The boyhood of Shakespeare, for instance, is almost a blank page in his history. This, of course, is not surprising. Men are not noticed till they are famous; friends of youth give up the ghost one by one, until a great man's young career is, perhaps, known only to himself, and he may deem it the wiser policy to keep it locked up. From his fourth year Beethoven was a child of sorrow, and his whole existence was made up of a series of misfortunes. His father was neither burdened with great wealth nor great judgment. He cramped his son's intellect and impaired his health, so that he might put money in his pocket by making the little musician a prodigy. Young Beethoven was compelled to sit at the piano day and night until he almost hated what naturally he adored. But there was some excuse for the father—Bach, Mozart, and Handel had been prodigies, and after all the foundation of that technical skill and power over the pianoforte which so distinguished Beethoven may be attributed to his early and severe training. Beethoven achieved brilliant renown, but misfortune never left him. In the midst of success he became deaf!—"this was the most unkindest cut of all." A famous composer with long years of life before him and unable to hear! To any one it would have been a great deprivation, but to a musician more than half way up the ladder to lasting fame, it would seem almost worse than the loss of life itself. So thought Beethoven, for he says of himself that but for the fear of committing a crime he would have gladly put an end to his life. This, however, did not end his labours, for he afterwards composed that beautiful song "Adelaida," one of the best known in England of any of his compositions. It was under this affliction too that he fell in love—a more passionate love, according to his letters, than any we have found in fiction—with Julia Guicciardi, whom, however, he never married. One of the love letters he wrote, which if found in a novel would scarcely be believed, commences thus:—"My Angel! My All! My Second Self!" and another ends: "Be calm; love me—to-day—yesterday—what longing! what tears for thee—for thee—my Life! My All! Farewell! Oh! continne to love me.—Never misjudge the faithful heart of thy lover. Ever thine, ever mine, ever each others." We have only space to add that he died on March 26th, 1827, and that all who would read an interesting book of real life should purchase—"Beethoven: A Memoir."

An extremely interesting subject of controversy, which excited a good deal of attention a year or two ago, is the method of teaching the deaf and dumb. Before the mind of the mute can be cultivated—before, indeed, anything deserving the name of information can be imparted, the teacher must put himself into mental communication with his pupil, and he must make the pupil master of some more or less artificial mode of communicating with the rest of the world. Up to this point there is no dispute. Here, however, the question arises whether an attempt shall be made to teach the child to speak in imitation of his teacher, and to read off words, as it were, by sight from the tutor's lips; or whether he shall be instructed in an arbitrary system of manual and other physical signs. In both cases the patient is taught to read by sight and to write like other scholars, and from that point the methods move on separate lines. Beyond question a considerable amount of success was achieved in the famous Belgian Catholic Institution in teaching mutes to articulate syllables and to read off words from the lips of a speaker, and the fact that such success is possible is rather captivating. Nevertheless, after much discussion and experiment the balance of opinion is unquestionably in favour of instruction by signs. The Belgian system, it seems, demands the most extraordinary labour and perseverance, and when the very best is done the pupil is liable to relapse into unintelligibility, from the fact that he can never hear his own voice when he attempts to express articulate sounds, and because, though he may make out the words which his tutor speaks, he is able only in the most imperfect way to decipher syllables from the lips of strangers who have not learned so to move their vocal organs in talking as to make themselves understood by the totally deaf. The most recent, and certainly one of the most valuable, contributions to this controversy is "The Deaf and Dumb, their Education and Position," by W. R. Scott, Ph.D., published by Bell and Daldy. Dr. Scott is Principal of the West of England Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb. After carefully studying the question, he is convinced that the Belgian system is not the right one, and his own success at Exeter in sending out from the institution deaf mutes who can read and write, who are well instructed in arithmetic, grammar, geography, and the ordinary school education, and many of whom are earning their livelihood in various ways is some warrant in practice of the value of his views. Dr. Scott contends that the language of gesture is natural to human beings. Where the other method of teaching mutes is attempted, he says, "The minds of the pupils are not so well cultivated as they would otherwise be, and one of the great ends of instruction—the moral and mental improvement of the children—is sacrificed for the doubtful accomplishment of saying certain sentences by means of mechanical speech." The reader, whose interest is engaged in this very interesting subject, should possess himself of Dr. Scott's excellent book.

PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

THE same run of ill luck which has followed all Mr. Robertson's efforts outside the Prince of Wales's Theatre still pursues him. *War* is a failure. From the commencement of the overture the audience exhibited an ominious disquietude which never subsided. The divided opinions of the audience with regard to the conflict now raging on the Continent contributed to the non-success of the play. Even the national airs in the overture were alternately hissed and applauded. The acting was excellent throughout. Mr. Henri Nertann, from the Gymnase, Paris, gave a clever and characteristic interpretation of a very difficult part. Miss Fanny Brough gave further promise of dramatic power. At the close of the play Mr. Robertson was called, but he could not appear, owing to severe indisposition. Mr. Robertson is entitled to general sympathy. Working hard for many years to achieve success, prosperity has brought with it a painful illness. There is no man who has striven with greater industry and perseverance for the position which Mr. Robertson has made for himself among dramatic authors, or who better deserves success. Whether *War* will retrieve the failure of the first representation remains to be seen. For the sake of the enterprising management of the St. James's Theatre we hope it may.

WE have two theatrical illustrations in our paper this week. One represents a family box at the Pantomime. Our artist in this case, we suspect, has got his picture from Covent Garden. But it is *apropos* of any leading theatre in the three kingdoms. Similar happy parties are to be found at Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield, everywhere in the provinces as well as in London. Imagine any man selfish enough to disturb the happiness of a boxful of children at the pantomime. The bare suggestion that anyone could be capable of such conduct is like a reflection upon humanity. Yet we have just had an exhibition of obstinacy and selfishness of this kind. The *Standard* tells the story in a short leading article.

> "An incident is reported to have taken place last week at Covent Garden Theatre, which shows that people may sometimes misconduct themselves in a disgraceful manner at a place of public entertainment without doing anything which renders them liable to expulsion at the hands of the police. A gentleman, whose name does not transpire, had chartered the greater part of the dress-circle on a particular night for the benefit of all the children of his acquaintance. He thus made arrangements for seventy or more of his young friends to see the pantomime simultaneously. The idea made a little sensation. People looked forward with interest to seeing the phalanx of happy boys and girls established in the middle of the dress-circle in one large party. But the chosen night arrived, and to the consternation of the manager and of the children's beneficent friend, it was found that four men were planted in some of the most conspicuous seats reserved for the juvenile gathering. Through some unfortunate mistake tickets entitling them to the places they occupied had been sold to them at one of the libraries. The situation of affairs was explained to them. By order of the manager, stalls in the best part of the house were offered them in exchange for the less valuable seats they had paid for, or if they pleased they might have a private box. But, no; they refused to move. The obstinate boobies seem to have considered that it became them to stand upon their rights. They had paid for the seats they occupied. Why should they stir for anybody? Perhaps they considered themselves creditably representing the sturdy independence of the British character. No persuasion could stir them from their places, and there they continued to sit in the midst of the children, spoiling the effect of the little scene which had been organised, and suggesting infinite reflections concerning selfishness and stupidity. They themselves were probably too thick-headed to understand the impression their conduct created; but to any thoughtful person present, at all prone to be unreasonably tenacious of his rights, they must have afforded a solemn warning."

We feel sure our readers will forgive us for reproducing so lengthy an extract in the interest not only of the children, but as a caution to "bears and boobies" who are often found in possession of seats in dress circles and stalls—gentlemen who make a point of coming in late and talking loud. Mr. Simpson at Birmingham some years ago was in the habit of punishing unruly persons who frequented his gallery by refusing them admission to the theatre for several weeks together. He used to point them out to the door-keepers, and have them systematically tabooed. When they were re-admitted they never committed themselves a second time. It is a pity the "gentlemen" who disfigured the children's party the other evening at Covent Garden cannot be subjected to a similar salutary warning at all the theatres in London.

OUR other dramatic picture this week is a sketch of the theatre at Metz occupied by German soldiers, who have got up an amateur entertainment. Quartered for the time being in the establishment they have ransacked the property-room and are having "a play extempore." The picture is painfully suggestive of the destructive character of war—sadly indicative of the fearful change which the hostile armies in France have wrought throughout that unhappy land. A year ago, at this season, the stage of the Metz Theatre was filled by a well-paid company of actors. The auditorium was occupied by happy and delighted citizens, enjoying the play as only French people do enjoy the drama. A few short months and the scene falls upon a real tragedy of the most terrible character. Actor and spectator alike are involved in the tragic transformation. Many of them are dead. Those who live are ruined. Better for them almost had they fallen under the iron hail of death than live to see what they have seen. The theatre is in the hands of a conquering host. Stage, orchestra, boxes, are occupied by hostile troops—actors in the real drama of history, which, after all, is far more marvellous, far more startling, than all the imaginary incidents and romantic episodes of the playwright or the poet.

MR. W. S. GILBERT'S "Ages Ago" runs out this week at the Gallery of Illustration. So great a favourite has it been that even those who have seen the piece more than once will not hear of its withdrawal without a certain feeling of regret. The idea to start with was so good, the dialogue was so neat, the working up so clever, that it required only the admirable acting of Mr. and Mrs. German Reed, and the easy, genial and agreeable personation of the other characters by Miss Fanny Holland, Mr. Arthur Cecil, and Mr. Corney Grain, to make it little short of perfect. The substitute for "Ages Ago," which has been announced for some time, is called "A Sensation Novel." This also is by Mr. W. S. Gilbert, "in three volumes;" with "musical notes" by German Reed, a "frontispiece" by John O'Connor, and "vignettes" by Mrs. Reed, and the rest of the happy little company.

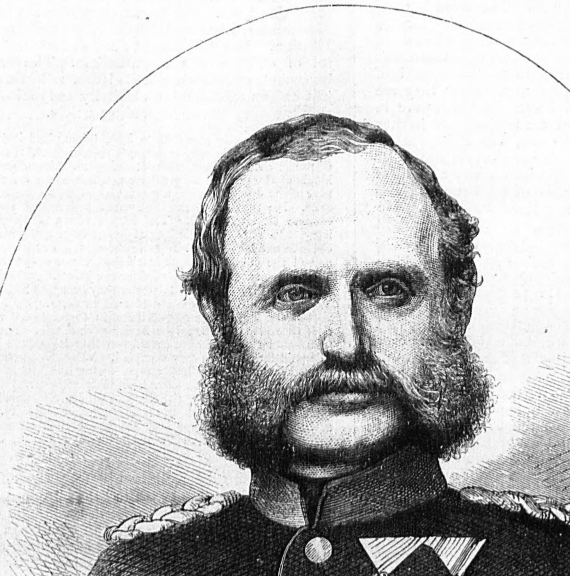
A LETTER from Rethel, dated the 7th, says:—"The Francs-tireurs do us much harm. They take away our provisions and coal waggons, and make no stand against the enemy, as recently between Vervins and Vireux, where, though four times stronger than the Prussians, they were driven off. Many of these Francs-tireurs are only robbers, who avail themselves of the general arming in order to make the roads unsafe. Gambetta recently wrote to this effect to the commandant at Mezieres."

PRINCE GEORGE OF SAXONY.

PRINCE GEORGE, Duke of Saxony (whose title in full is Prinz Friedrich August George Ludwig Wilhelm Maximilian Karl Maria Nepomuk Baptist Xaver Enriacus Romanus Herzog zu Sachen), is the second son of King John, and was born on the 8th of August, 1832. The Prince belongs to the 12th Army Corps, and was at Gravelotte and Sedan, but has not yet done anything to greatly distinguish himself, although Saxony has done more than her share of the war. From the commencement, Bismarck has pushed the "allies" in front. The Saxons have fought with a stubbornness of courage worthy of the race from which they sprung. They have figured magnificently in some of the most brilliant of the German victories. Saxony has a grand history. In 804 it was invaded by Charlemagne, who compelled the inhabitants to embrace Christianity. It was made a Duchy in 850. Henry I. (the Fowler) elected Emperor in 919, was the first of the Saxons who obtained that distinction. He erected the margraviate of Meissen in 922 as a bulwark against the Slavonians, and so formed the nucleus of the kingdom. The family of Wettin, in whom the office has become hereditary, added their own possessions to the margraviate in 1130. The Emperor Sigismund invested Frederick the Warlike with the electorial title and the Duchy of Saxony in 1422. Ernest and Albert, sons of Frederick II., by the division of the country at their father's death founded the two lines that bear their names in 1464. Frederick III. supported the cause of the Reformation and patronised Luther. John the Constant headed the Protestant princes at the diet of Spires in 1529. John Frederick the Magnanimous took a prominent part in the war against Charles V., and was defeated and made prisoner at the battle of Muhlberg, April 24, 1547. He was deprived of his dignities, which were transferred to his cousin Maurice, of the Albertine line, in 1548. John George I. obtained part of the see of Magdeburg, and the two Lusatian margraviates in 1635. Frederick the Strong, made King of Poland, had to defend his territory against Charles XII. of Sweden in 1697. His son Frederick Augustus II. was also elected King of Poland in 1733. He took part with France and Prussia in the war of the Austerial Succession in 1740, but sided with the empire in the Seven Years' War. A rising of the peasantry led to a redress of some of their grievances in 1790. Having supported Prussia against France for some time after the battle of Jena, Frederick Augustus allied himself with Napoleon I., taking the title of King by treaty Dec. 11, 1806, and becoming a member of the Confederacy of the Rhine. The territory was nearly doubled by other cessions from Austria in 1809. It became the theatre of the struggles with Napoleon I. in 1813, and the King was deprived of above one half of his dominions by the treaty of peace with Prussia, signed May 18, 1815. A new Constitution was framed in 1831. The old system was restored by the Diet elected in 1852. The Prussians invaded Saxony in June, 1866, and by a treaty signed Oct. 21, the King of Saxony agreed to pay about a million and a half sterling, and ceded the fortress of Konigstein.

It is related of one of the soldiers of the present army that on being complimented by the Crown Prince of Prussia, he said: "Yes, Your Royal Highness, if we had had you to lead us we should have beaten those confounded Prussians in 1866." True or not the story strikes at the root of Germany's success, and gives indication of difficulties not yet altogether overcome in completing the unity of the Fatherland. Saxons, Bavarians, Wurtemburgers, Badeners, all have been well officered and splendidly led. They have never been deceived. Moltke's arrangements have never failed. Sent here, ordered there, the troops have always known that there would be no hitch. Their confidence has been cultivated and established. They have never been too late or too early. They have always been left in positions where, advantages being gained, victory could be followed up. It was this perfection of generalship that conquered Austria and the other States. Prussia is perfect in the art of war. Trained men never lack courage under good generals and leaders, and with generous and satisfactory commissariat arrangements. While we in England do not altogether agree with the Prussian system, it is generally felt that there are features in it which might well be adopted by us. The *Saturday Review*, in an article on army reform, admirably hits off some of the difficulties in our way.

"The army is the recognised outlet for the sons of great men, and the sons of rich men, who want a life of good-fellowship, and some excitement and some fun and some usefulness. All the parents of stupid gentlemanly young men born to means or position would be keenly touched by an army reform that made officers lead a life of hard, and in many respects, hard intellectual work. And then there is a large portion of our officers who are officers simply because they are not expected to be much like officers, as, for instance, those in volunteer regiments. The habit of putting men to do things who do them fairly well, but not more than fairly well, merely because these men are connected with land, is deeply inwoven into English society. To put the local army of defence not under brave, pleasant, ignorant gentlemen, but under professional experts, would cut counter to this widely-spread tendency of English society; and the whole class which it would directly affect, and the very much larger number of classes who sympathize with them, and are more or less dependent on them, will be thoroughly adverse to the change. The constitutional difficulties, again, are by no means slight. The English army belongs in an especial manner to the English Sovereign, and all English Sovereigns have clung fondly to the authority and influence which their control over the army gives them. An army organised under officers chosen for their professional knowledge and expected to be always exercising and increasing it, and looking to the Secretary at War as their real head, would weaken or possibly efface this indirect influence of the Sovereign, and make Parliament be regarded as the only centre and source of military authority. No doubt it may be objected that in Prussia there is a most efficient army under the direct influence of the Royal family. But then in Prussia the Sovereign and his family are practically and not merely theoretically heads of the army. We expect nothing of the sort from our Royal Family. The Prince of Wales has other things to do. He is always driving, hunting, battue-shooting, pigeon-shooting, patronising asylums, attending public dinners, and explaining how much he wishes he was like his father, calling on lady friends, dining out, being made freeman of corporations, and fulfilling the other various duties of his exalted station. If he devoted himself to military studies, it might injure his health—it would abstract him from society; the army would not like it, and the public would not like it. The influence of the Royal Family may be therefore occasionally typified by such an appointment as that of the Duke of Cambridge, or of his uncle the Duke of York, but it is for the most part a very latent and indirect influence. Still it is a real one, and one cherished in the traditions of the Royal Family, and it is one that will not be lightly abandoned—not for purely selfish reasons, but because Royal families in limited monarchies are obliged to ask themselves very anxiously how many of the more recondite sources of their power they can in these days afford to surrender. The political difficulties are, however, perhaps the greatest of all. Now the volunteer corps are powerful agents in winning adherents to the Conservative side. Young men who are not otherwise known in a county thus come under the notice of the great men of a county, and wish to please them and seem to belong to their set, and most of the leading men in English counties are Conservatives. This has already told very strongly in the manufacturing districts, and has largely contributed to the triumphs which the Conservatives have won there. Then a very large portion of the Liberal party dislike everything approaching to the prominence of the army. Thus a Minister will find plenty of support who strives to conceal under the name of Army Reform a mere increase of expenditure, accompanied by a few improvements or changes in detail."

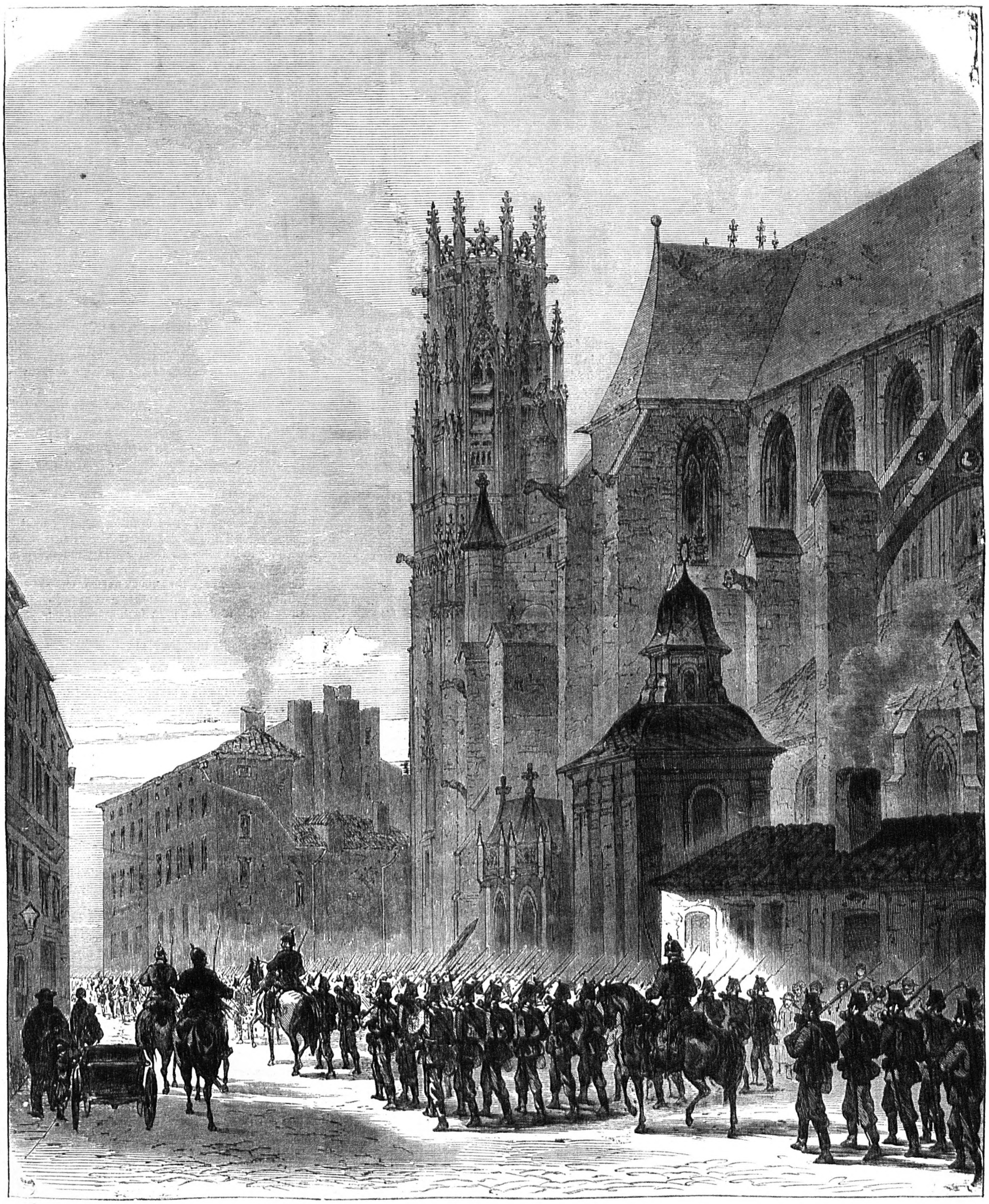

PRINCE GEORGE OF SAXONY.

THE CASUS BELLI.

Apropos of some of the remarks into which we have been led in reference to Prince George, we may quote the following notes upon the origin of the war from several admirably written pages of history, which open Sylvanus Urban's new work, the *Gentleman's Annual*:—"We must not hastily conclude that but for the indefensible position assumed by the French Government after the withdrawal of Prince Leopold's candidature there would have been no war. Count Bismarck was now upon the scene, and while the Duc de Gramont was supplying Lord Lyons with a memorandum of France's ultimatum: "We demand that the King of Prussia shall forbid the Prince of Hohenzollern from renewing at any future time his candidature," the Chancellor of the North German Confederation was saying to Lord Augustus Loftus, our representative at Berlin: "After what has now occurred we must require some assurance, some guarantee that we may not be subjected to a sudden attack; we must know that, this Spanish difficulty once removed, there are no other lurking designs which may burst upon us like a thunderstorm." It was no longer the aged and rather peaceably disposed King at Ems—only half initiated into his own Minister's secrets and schemes — who had now to be met; it was the Count von Bismarck, whose favourite pastime had been war-making, who had unbounded confidence in the results of a campaign, who knew with the certitude of a man that plays with loaded dice the attitude which every great power in Europe would assume upon the outbreak just then of hostilities between France and Prussia, who was sufficiently assured beforehand of the help of the South German States, and who saw, as clearly in July as we do in December, that a Franco-Prussian war in 1870 would realise the dream of his life by placing the crown of the German Empire on the head of the King of Prussia. That the conduct of the French Government, after the message from Prince Antoine, was wholly inexcusable there can hardly be a question, but let those who think that on the resolve to insist upon "guarantees" from King William depended the awful issue of a struggle which has almost annihilated France, recall these further words of the Minister-President at Berlin, addressed to the emissary of a mediating Power before he had received any intimation of the temper of the Imperial Government upon the reception of Prince Antoine's decision: "Count Bismarck further stated that unless some assurance, some declaration were given by France to the European Powers, or in some official form, that the present solution of the Spanish question was a final and satisfactory settlement of the French demands, and that no further claims were to be raised; and if, further, a satisfactory explanation of the menacing language held by the Duc de Gramont were not made, the Prussian Government would be obliged to *seek explanations from France*. It was impossible, added his Excellency, that Prussia could tamely and quietly sit under the affront offered to the King and to the nation by the menacing language of the French Government. *I could not*, said his Excellency, *hold communication with the French Ambassador after the language held to Prussia by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs in the face of Europe*." From this despatch of Lord Alexander Loftus, dated July 13th, immediately after the arrival of Count Bismarck at Berlin, it is clear that, virtually war was made when the Duc de Gramont made his speech in the Corps Legislatif on the 6th. Then was the challenge given that was to ruin Imperial France and build up Imperial Prussia, and the Chancellor of the North German Confederation was not the man to let it pass. Two or three men, by half-a-dozen words can render war almost inevitable, peace all but impossible.

PONT A MOUSSON.

Mecklenburg Landwehr marching through Pont a Mousson is the subject of our illustration on this page. Pont a Mousson is situated on the Moselle, here crossed by a bridge, which links together the old town and the new. The Church of St. Martin's is a fine gothic building, ending in three apexes and ornamented with paintings of the Lorraine school, in the style of the latter part of the thirteenth century. The buildings of the ancient Abbaye de St. Marie are converted into a Seminaire. Pont a Mousson is the birthplace of Marshal Duroc, the friend of Napoleon, in whose arms he died mortally wounded at the battle of Bautzen, 1813. The high road here crosses the Moselle to its right bank. Pont a Mousson is a most ancient place, but it has a lively and bright appearance, and its environs are very beautiful. Half an hour's walk from the town is the valley of the Moselle, bordered by hills, crowded with orchards and vineyards, whilst the river runs through the valley with a comfortable laziness. One of the highest of the surrounding hills is crowned by the ruins of an ancient castle, and beneath it lies Pont a Mousson. On this hill are the remains of a Roman camp, which, so situated, must have easily held command over the Moselle. The town is first mentioned in the ninth century, when it was of sufficient importance to be named a German Reichstadt. It could not, however, defend itself long against the Dukes of Lorraine. There are several fine old churches and other buildings here, but amongst the new buildings there is only the Town Hall that is worth mentioning.



MECKLENBURGH LANDWEHR MARCHING THROUGH PONT A MOUSSON.

Cowasjee Jehanghier Readymoney, Esq., C.S.I., of Bombay, has just made the fol'owing timely gifts to London charities:—To the Lord Mayor, for the City poor boxes, £10; Middlesex Hospital, £10; Royal Free Hospital, £10; London Hospital, £10; Homœopathic Hospital, £10; Royal Hospital for Incurables, £10 10s.; Houseless Poor Asylum, £10; Boys' Refuge, Great Queen-street, £10; Girls' Refuge, Broad-street, Bloomsbury, £10; Printers' Pension Society, £10; Shipwrecked Mariners' Society, £10; and Strangers' Home, Limehouse, £10. The public benefactions of Mr. Cowasjee Jehanghier Readymoney during the last 25 years have exceeded £127,000, while his private gifts have been proportionately large.

At Duxbury, Massachusetts, a monument to Miles Standish is to be erected on "Captain's-hill."

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MESSRS. CHRISTIE, MANSON, and WOODS respectfully give notice that they will SELL by AUCTION, at their great Rooms, King-street, St. James's-square, on Friday, Feb. 3, and following day, and on Friday, Feb. 10, and following day (by order of the Executors), the valuable collection of PICTURES formed during the last 30 years by Mr. W. Anthony, deceased, comprising about 600 gallery and cabinet works, including examples of all the schools, and a large and interesting collection of historical portraits.

The Works of the late Alfred Gatley, of Rome.

MESSRS. CHRISTIE, MANSON, and WOODS respectfully give notice that they will SELL by AUCTION, at their great Rooms, King-street, St. James's-square, on Tuesday, Feb. 14, at 1 o'clock precisely, by order of the Executors, the REMAINING WORKS, in marble, of Alfred Gatley, deceased, received from Rome, including beautiful statues of "Echo" and "Night," a pair of African lions, a pair of Nubian lions, and a pair of tigers. May be viewed two days preceding, and catalogues had.

The whole of the magnificent Stock of Works of Art of the late Mr. A. Joseph, of New Bond-street.

MESSRS. CHRISTIE, MANSON, and WOODS respectfully give notice that they have received instructions from the Executors under the will of the late Mr. A. Joseph, of New Bond-street, to SELL the whole of the magnificent STOCK of WORKS of ART now in the Galleries at 92, New Bond-street, and collected by him with his well-known taste and judgment during many years in all parts of Europe. The first portion of the stock will be sold on Tuesday, Feb. 21, and three following days, and will comprise fine carvings in ivory, antique silver, Italian and French bronzes, terra cottas, beautiful marble groups, figures, and vases, Venetian and Turkish metal work, old French clocks and candelabra, decorative furniture, beautiful miniature German and Venetian glass, majolica, Della Robbia ware, and beautiful specimens of Amstel, Angouleme, Anspach, Berlin, Buen Retiro, Capo di Monte, Chelsea, Chelsea Derby, St. Cloud, Copenhagen, Derby, Dresden, Doccia, Furstenburg, Frankenthal, Gera, Fulden, Hague, Herend, Hochst, Korzec, Lisbon, Ludwigsburg, Mariaburg, Menecy, Neapolitan, Nymphenburg, Nyon, Oriental, Persian, Regensburg, Rudolstadt, Russian, Schlakenwald, Sevres, Tournay, Venetian, Vienna, Vesta, Allegre, Volkstadt, Worcester, and Zurich porcelain. Further particulars as to publication of catalogues and dates of sale will be duly announced. N.B.—The Lease of the valuable Premises, with frontage in Woodstock-street, to be disposed of by private contract.

NOTICES.

THE London Publishing Office of this paper is at 102, Fleet-street, where the trade can now be supplied early on Friday mornings. The head offices for the country are at 108, New-street, Birmingham. Any business information can be obtained at either of these establishments.

COMMUNICATIONS for the Editor or Publisher should be addressed to 102, Fleet-street, London.

ADVERTISEMENTS are inserted at the rate of 1s. a line, space being charged as lines, and 20 per cent. extra for blocks. Special rates from 1s. 6d. a line are charged for announcements in this page. Illustrated and double column Advertisements can only be inserted in the fourteenth and fifteenth pages.

THE paper will be delivered to the public by any News-agent in London or Birmingham, or direct from the Birmingham Office, at 13s. a-year; or free by post from London for 15s., pre-paid.

TO ADVERTISERS.

THE ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS is now an established medium for public announcements. It combines with a first-class country circulation a growing and not unimportant London Sale. With a view to meet the increased demand for the paper, special publishing offices have this week been opened at 102, Fleet-street, in addition to those in Birmingham. THE ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS may now fairly claim to be regarded by London Advertisers not only as a country but a London paper. Arrangements are being made for a Special Supplement in commemoration of the marriage of the Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne.

Illustrated Midland News.

JANUARY 21, 1871.

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THOSE of our readers who have relatives and friends shut up in Paris will be glad to learn that at a Cabinet Council held this week, it was resolved to dispatch a messenger to France with a *carte blanche* to purchase food for distribution among all English speaking people in Paris immediately on the capitulation of the city. This argues an opinion on the part of the Government that Paris must speedily fall. The bombardment is being prosecuted by the Germans with a disregard of private and public property, which outrages alike public sentiment, humanity, and civilisation; but the soldiers of King William are growing impatient of the war, and believe that only the fall of Paris stands between them and a peaceful return to their homes. We heartily trust that this may be so.

WE hope the report that Her Majesty is to open Parliament in person is true. It is believed that the Premier has made a very serious representation to Her Majesty upon the importance of this act of sovereignty in February next. The Queen, we fear, has not had a very pleasant time lately. There is no doubt that her august relative, King William, has affectionately but firmly communicated to Her Majesty his disapprobation of the introduction of the Marquis of Lorne into the Royal family. The German Emperor's ideas of divine right are no doubt shocked by the Queen of England's extraordinary condescension, and the more so seeing that the Marquis has a brother in trade. The Bishop of London and the Archbishop of Canterbury have both remonstrated with the Queen against the marriage taking place during Lent. The Church will no doubt have its proper weight with the Queen, but the Prussian protest will only serve to give greater piquancy to the pleasure felt by English people of all classes at that "defeat of the Germans," so graphically portrayed some weeks ago by John Tenniel in *Punch*.

THE *Daily News* correspondent at the head-quarters of the Crown Prince of Saxony has some notes in his last letter which our contemporary regards as peculiarly significant. Notwithstanding the temptation of a war correspondent attached to a specific command to adapt his opinions with those of the soldiers with whom he is constantly associated, the *Daily News* writer cannot disguise from himself a conviction that Germany's success is not a certainty. He has no doubt that Paris must fall. Indeed, he thinks that event is very near at hand. But looking beyond that event, he regards the possibility of a victorious continuation of the struggle as increasingly doubtful. However severe their reverses the French continually put fresh armies into the field, and never entertain for a moment the thought of surrender. The opinions of the *Daily News* upon the present aspect of the war are as significant as those of its correspondent. The *News* has nevertheless shown a marked sympathy with Prussia, almost indeed as marked as the *Standard's* championship of France. Yet on Wednesday the *News* says:—"The smaller States of Germany are beginning to see that the chief glory of the war falls on Prussia, and that while they pay their full share of the cost and sacrifice, the Prussian throne gets all the advantage. In helping to subdue France, they are giving themselves a master. The German democracy sends its sons to die that the Prussian aristocracy may confirm its rule at home by victories abroad. It is not, therefore, solely from sympathy with Liberal France that we deprecate the continuance of the war; we do so even more from sympathy with Liberal Germany." The other day these opinions were scouted by the Liberal press of England. To-day they are paramount. Let us hope they will be turned to account in some way that will be favourable to France and to Peace.

MR. FORSTER, they say, has given himself airs at Bradford. It has been customary for Mr. Miall and himself to address their constituents together. But Mr. Forster is charged with having "cut" his colleague this week. Worse than this, he has passed over the Liberal Association. His own agent called together the meeting of his constituents this week, and the electors were admitted by ticket. At the end of the meeting a sort of vote of censure was passed on Mr. Forster. Since the hon. gentleman has become a Cabinet Minister, his friends and supporters at Bradford have not felt themselves on the old happy and familiar terms with their member. In his speech this week they say he reminded them too often of his exalted position; "and we don't like that sort of thing at Bradford," says one of our correspondents. "It is on the cards, therefore," he continues, "that Mr. Forster will not sit for Bradford after the next general election."

THE Conference on the Eastern Question opened in London on Tuesday. M. Jules Favre had not arrived, and, after certain preliminaries, the proceedings were adjourned till next Tuesday, in the hope that the representative of the French Government would be able by that time to attend. In the English metropolis no information whatever has been gleaned as to the probable course and results of the deliberations, but from Berlin and Vienna we hear a little. A great point appears to be to compel Russia to acknowledge that a treaty is a treaty. The united ingenuity of the diplomatists all round appears to have been employed in putting that admission into such a form that the Czar can make it without a wry face. Two forms of wording have been suggested for the protocol. One says that a Power wishing to be released from a treaty must give notice to the other parties, and address a demand to them. The other declares that no Power can modify a treaty without the consent of the other parties to it. The first is absurd. It does not, in fact, assert that a treaty is a treaty, but rather the contrary. Yet it is said that Prussia concurs with Russia in standing out for the first form of wording. It is evident, however, notwithstanding the predominant attitude of Germany in Europe, that the Czar will have to yield to the opinions of the other Powers in that matter. Meanwhile, Austria will require a guarantee of protection for the Danube in the event of a modification of the conditions of the neutralization of the Black Sea; and it is likely that the position of Prince Charles among his Roumanian subjects, and the relations of Roumania with Austria, Russia, Prussia, and Turkey will come under discussion. We are told that Prussia will leave Prince Charles to take care of himself in Roumania, but we do not believe it.

AMONG the most important exhibitions of pictures in the provinces are those of the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists, and the spring and the autumn shows remain open for so many weeks in those seasons that practically the capital of the Midlands is not for many months without an excellent gallery of pictures but recently painted. The Autumn Exhibition for 1870 is just closed. Of its character we need not now speak, for during many weeks we gave a succession of critiques in which we noticed every picture in the gallery. By favour of the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Allen E. Everitt, we have before us a number of figures, the results of the show now closed. It appears that 32,335 persons visited the rooms, of whom 5,365 were admitted free by reason of holding Art Union tickets. Of the pictures exhibited 106 were sold, realizing £2,479 2s.: while 56 were sold by the Art Union for £608 19s. The highest price received for a single painting was 150 guineas. The title was "Japanese Chrysanthemums," and the painter Miss A. F. Mutrie. Mr. J. J. Hill's "Happiness" was purchased for £120; Mr. J. B. Burgess's "Spanish Lady" for £115; and Mr. John Syer's "Near Capel Curig" £100.

THE death is announced of Dr. Thomas Mayo, for some time President of the Royal College of Physicians. He was born in 1790. Having gone through the usual medical course he took his degree of M.D. in 1818, and 1819 he was elected a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. Among his many published works are "Elements of the Pathology of the Mind," "Clinical Facts and Reflections," "Outlines of Medical Proof Revised," "On Medical Evidence and Testimony in Cases of Lunacy, with Essays on Soundness of Mind."

INCIDENTS OF THE WEEK.

On Monday morning High Requiem Mass was celebrated at the Spanish Chapel, Spanish-place, for the repose of the soul of the late Marshal Prim, Marshal of Castellejos. The altar was draped in mourning, and a broad band of black cloth was drawn in spiral form over the columns of the nave. The catafalque was placed in the centre, covered with a pall, surrounded by numerous lights, and bearing the general's sword, the baton of a marshal, and the coronet of a grandee of Spain. Though the mass was fixed for the early hour of 10, the chapel was full, a great many of those present being Spaniards, including the Spanish Minister, Consul, and Vice-Consul. The officiating priest was the Rev. Walter Raleigh; the Rev. J. Wyatt, deacon; the Rev. G. S. Delaney, sub-deacon; and the Rev. M. Barry, master of the ceremonies. Two Spanish clergymen also assisted. There was a full band and chorus, under the direction of Mr. E. Fagan, the organist and director of music to the Spanish Chapel. After the "Requiescat," and whilst the catafalque was being sprinkled with holy water and incensed, the solemn music of the "Libera" was chanted with great effect.

The *Irish Times* says it is now certain that the Prince of Wales, and it is hoped, the Princess, will pay a visit of some duration to Ireland this year. The Duke of Cambridge will come at the same time.

A new small-arms factory is to be established at Small Heath, Birmingham.

The Channel Squadron will, it is believed, not be sent from England until the Conference is concluded.

Up to this time the only vessels which the Admiralty have decided upon building during the coming financial year are two gunboats of the Coquette class.

The Lord Chancellor is engaged in preparing a Bill for a reform of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

M. de Lesseps, who is still in Paris, has written contradicting the reports of his having the intention to sell the Suez Canal.

A crowded meeting was held at Birmingham on Monday night on the subject of Army Reform. Mr. Wright presided. Among the speakers were Mr. Trevelyan, M.P., Mr. Auberon Herbert, M.P., Mr. Dixon, M.P., Mr. Lea, M.P. In a lengthy speech, Mr. Trevelyan severely criticised the administration at the Horse Guards, and demanded, as a preliminary to reform, the dismissal of the Duke of Cambridge. A resolution was passed affirming the urgent need for a reorganization of the army, and the abolition of the present system of the sale of commissions.

On Sunday and Monday heavy gales prevailed on various parts of the coast, and many shipping casualties are reported, accompanied, unhappily, in several cases by loss of life. The boats of the National Lifeboat Institution were the means of saving the crews of distressed vessels in numerous instances. The Italian schooner Unico was at anchor under Speeton Cliffs, Filey, on Sunday morning, when she parted her cables in the gale, and went on Filey Brigg Rocks. In three minutes the vessel had capsized, and out of the crew of thirteen, only one man was saved; the catastrophe being so sudden, that there was no chance of using the fine lifeboat the National Institution has on this station to rescue the poor shipwrecked men. At Deal eight poor boatmen lost their lives almost within earshot of their own homes. Shortly after six o'clock (in the midst of a heavy gale from S.S.W. and in a driving rain) a "flare" was observed on the Goodwin Sands intimating that a vessel was in distress, and immediate preparations were made for launching two luggers (the England's Glory and the Reform) to her assistance. The former went on her voyage in safety, but most unfortunately the latter failed to clear the "haul of rope" in getting off and drifted to leeward—the force of the gale and strong flood tide driving her violently against the Pier, which is about 200 yards north of the stage from where the boat was launched. The force of the collision carried away the foremast, and a heavy sea sent the boat against the cross bars of the piles, and she immediately began to fill. Knowing their perilous position, the crew commenced taking off their heavy sea-clothing, and ropes were at once thrown from the Pier, but the boat sank before any help could reach them. Most of the crew clung to the spars and sails, and floated away with the tide. The screams of the poor fellows as they were one by one swallowed up by the waves were most heartrending. Notwithstanding the terrific sea a galley-punt was put off from the shore to save them, but being insufficiently manned, was unable to do so. Further north, however, a boat was launched by two boatmen, Edward Hanger and Stanton, who succeeded in rescuing three of the crew. The bodies of two more were washed ashore near Sandown Castle.

Miss Mary Carpenter, whose noble exertions on behalf of female education in the great Indian Empire are familiar to the public, has just received a very valuable present from the people of Scinde. It consists of a large tablecloth, most elaborately embroidered in gold and silver; the design is exquisite in conception, and is wrought with a careful regard for the minuteness of its details. In a circle in the centre of the cloth is the inscription, worked in silver letters—"Presented to Miss Mary Carpenter, from Sind," and around the border are some verses in Persian characters. It was contained in a richly-carved box of Indian wood, in the front of which was inlaid an ivory tablet bearing Miss Carpenter's name. Accompanying the testimonial was an address, which was splendidly engrossed and illuminated, and bound in red morocco. A large number of signatures, including those of six native female teachers, were attached to the address, which speaks most strongly of the value of her services to India.

At a special meeting of the committee of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, held on Friday, it was resolved—"That this Chamber views with deep regret the continued existence of what is known as the 'Alabama Question' of a subject of controversy, which prevents those thoroughly cordial relations which ought to exist between Great Britain and the United States, and is of opinion that sound policy dictates that some renewed effort should be made to settle the question in dispute, and would respectfully but very strongly urge Her Majesty's Government without delay to take such steps as may lead to a final adjustment of the controversy." It was also further resolved that copies of the resolution be forwarded to the Premier through Messrs. Morley and Hodgson, the members for the city and the Chambers of Commerce throughout the kingdom, asking their concurrence and support.

The 35-ton gun, the most powerful piece of ordnance in existence, which will, it is believed, pierce any armour-plated vessel now or likely to be afloat, was fired for the first time on Friday afternoon at the proof-butts in the Government marshes adjoining the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. The trial was made by Capt. F. S. Stoney, R.A., Assist.-Superintendent Royal Gun Factories, Royal Arsenal; Lieut. Charles Jones, instructor in the same department; and Mr. M'Kinlay, the proof-master, the gun being worked by a fatigue party of the Royal Artillery, under Sergeant Willis. The sleigh, or gun-carriage, which had broken down a week or so before, had been strengthened with iron-plates strongly bolted to the sides, and stood the strain well. It was loaded with a powder charge of 75lb., half the proof-charge, and a projectile weighing 700lb., which is the shot for which it is constructed—an iron cylinder, about one foot in diameter and two and a half feet in length, with brass studs to fit the groove of the rifling—and one end of a wire having been attached to the vent, all present hastened under cover. In one of the proof-houses a gunner in a canvas suit stood before a magnetic battery, and at the word "Fire" touched a stud, when there was a tremendous report and an immense quantity of smoke, through which the monster gun was seen uninjured and unaffected by the explosion, beyond a recoil of 8ft. 7in. up an iron platform laid at an angle of seven degrees. A second round was fired under precisely similar conditions, except that, the ways having been slightly polished by the first discharge, there was a recoil of 9ft. 1in. Captain W. H. Noble, Royal Artillery, of the department of the Director of Artillery, took up a position in one of the splinter-proof houses for the purpose of ascertaining the velocity of the projectile by means of the navez-leur apparatus, a telegraphic arrangement in connection with the wire-screens placed at known distances between the muzzle of the gun and the butts. So great was the faith in the gun after each discharge that scarcely any one examined it to ascertain if there were any cracks or other signs of weakness; but the closest inspection would have failed to detect anything of the kind. It is confidently expected that the gun will stand equally well the further and more trying tests to which it will be subjected, for the charges will be gradually increased to the full-proof charge of 150lb. of powder. The service-charge of this gun will be 120lb.; but it is usual to test guns to the extent of one-fifth in excess of that which they are expected to bear on service.

The adjourned inquest on seventeen of the persons killed at the Witton ammunition manufactory near Birmingham was brought to a close on Monday. The jury found that the deceased persons died from the explosion, but that there was no evidence to show how it was caused. They added, however, that there was an insufficiency of proper care and precautions, and they were unanimously of opinion that such manufactories should be placed under Government inspectors.

Maravilla Cocoa for Breakfast.—The *Globe* says—Taylor Brothers' Maravilla Cocoa has achieved a thorough success, and supersedes every other cocoa in the market. Entire solubility, delicate aroma, and all the concentration of the purest elements of nutrition, distinguish the Maravilla Cocoa above all others. For homœopaths and invalids we could not recommend a more agreeable or valuable beverage.—Sold in packets only, by all grocers. Sole proprietors, Taylor Brothers, London. [76

Floriline!!—For the Teeth and Breath.—A few drops of the Fragrant Floriline on a wet tooth brush produces a delightful foam, which cleanses the Teeth from all impurities, strengthens and hardens the gums, prevents tartar, and arrests the progress of decay. It gives to the Teeth a peculiar and beautiful whiteness, and imparts a delightful fragrance to the breath. It removes all unpleasant odour arising from decayed Teeth, a disordered stomach, or tobacco smoke. The Fragrant Floriline is purely vegetable, and equally adapted to old and young. It is the greatest Toilet discovery of the age. Sold in elegant cases, complete, at 2s. 6d., by all Chemists and Perfumers.—H. C. Gallup, Proprietor, 493, Oxford-street, London. [156

Advice to Mothers.—Are you broken in your rest by a sick child suffering with the pain of cutting teeth? Go at once to a chemist, and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. It will relieve the poor sufferer immediately: it is perfectly harmless: it produces natural quiet sleep, by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes "as bright as a button." It is very pleasant to take; it soothes the child, it softens the gums, allays all pain, relieves wind, regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for dysentery and diarrhœa, whether arising from teething or other causes. Sold by all medicine vendors at 1s. 1½d. per bottle. [694

Iron Wine Bins.—How difficult in many houses to keep a few dozen of Wine as wine ought to be kept—safe, steady, and easy of access! The simplest contrivances of the day are the portable Wine Bins invented by Messrs. Burrow, of Great Malvern. They provide a separate rest for each bottle, soon save their cost, and can be filled or emptied by a child without risk. Made of any size or shape, they can be fixed in a minute anywhere in Cellar, Store-room, or Pantry—even the space "under the stairs," or any odd corner in a Batchelor's Chambers may be utilised, and (happy thought) *all can be kept safe under lock and key!* Messrs. Burrow send explanatory Pictorial Illustrations of their Patent Bins, post free, to any one who chooses to write for them, and we believe that Iron mongers and Wine Merchants now very generally keep the various size Bins for sale.—*London Paper.* [148

Pure Water.—Alfred Bird, Experimental Chemist, begs to announce that he has perfected his new Carbon Filter, price 7s. 6d. each, which he guarantees shall deliver 60 gallons of the purest water daily.—To be seen in action at 69, Worcester-street, Birmingham. [930

The Present Season.—Crichley, Wilde, and Co. are now showing a large section of their Patent Air Warmers; also, the Patent Terra-Cotta Gas Stove, which is entirely free from smoke or smell. New pattern Hot-Air Stoves for Halls, panelled with Encaustic Tiles. Churches, Mansions, Shops, &c., heated on the most approved principles. Show Rooms, 5 , 6, and 6½, Cannon-street. Works, Bordesley. [119

For Table Delicacies, Desserts, &c., "Sea Moss Farine" is the most healthful, economical, convenient, and delicious food in the world. A Shilling Packet will produce *Sixteen Quarts* of Blanc Mange, Custard Pudding, Charlotte Russe, Floating Island, &c. Sea Moss Farine is in a far more concentrated form than Corn Flours, Maizena, and other farinaceous or gelatinous articles. Its cheapness, wholesomeness, and simplicity of preparation will commend it to all Hotels, Families, and Restaurants. Sold by all Chemists and Grocers. Sea Moss Farine Co., 266, High Holborn, London. [21

Important.—14, Carr's-lane, Birmingham. Established 1861, for the sale of Pure Tea. Connoisseurs pronounce the Tea sold at this Warehouse superior to any that can be obtained elsewhere. Twenty-five per cent. saved in value. [24

GOSSIP.

The death of Maccomo, the lion tamer, is announced.

It is reported that Liszt has been invited by M. Bismarck to take the direction of the Berlin Academy of Music in the place of Joachim.

The *Musical Standard* says that the Alhambra is bestirring itself for art, the Company having offered a prize of £200 for the best piece of music in the form of a grand original fantasia for full orchestra, chorus, organ, military band, etc.

Professor Huxley has accepted the office of President of the Birmingham and Midland Institute, held in 1869 by the late Charles Dickens.

The Paris letter of the *Athenæum*, Dec. 17, announces the death of M. Pierre Jannet, the well-known founder and publisher of the Bibliotheque Elzevirienne. He edited himself, among other works, *Les Quinze Joies de Mariage*, and the works of Rabelais. He was also remarkable for his great bibliographical and linguistic knowledge. The languages which he had mastered included Chinese, for which he tried to introduce an improved mode of printing.

In the current number of the *Westminster Review* is an elaborate and comprehensive article on the poetical work of D. G. Rossetti. By far the best and newest thing in it is the short comparison of some of Rossetti's Sonnets with those of Shakespeare. There are, however, a few inaccuracies in the first part of the article, which may probably be explained by too close a following of Fauriel. It is, for instance, perhaps a little difficult to prove that the Troubadours generally wandered so far as the feudal halls of Suabia; on the other hand, they exercised an undoubted influence upon the Minnesingers Friedrich von Husen and Rudolf von Neuenburg, as is shown by the imitations and translations of the latter. Apart from these slight defects, the article shows that faithful study which the works of this poet and his masters require and repay.—*Academy*.

The *Examiner*, which with the new year appeared under new management, in a neater form, and on better paper, has commenced a series of articles under the title of "Playhouse Notes." They are to be made up of short sketches of theatrical history. The introductory notice says:—"These will not be out of place in a paper which formerly contained dramatic criticisms by Hazlitt and Leigh Hunt; and some benefit may be done, in these days of sensation and burlesque, by calling attention to the machinery and spirit of the English drama in earlier and better days.

Mr. Swinburne's new volume of poems has appeared; it consists of three dozen revolutionary pieces.

The leading journals have pronounced "Fenton's Quest," by Miss Braddon, to be an improvement upon her previous efforts.

Mr. Buchanan's "Napoleon Fallen" has been highly spoken of by the critics. It is certainly a most remarkable production.

The new organ in the Hanover-square Rooms, built by Messrs. Lewis and Co., of Brixton, was recently opened by Mr. W. T. Best (organist of St. George's-hall, Liverpool), who performed an admirable programme of music, exhibiting his own powers and the capabilities of the organ to the satisfaction of an appreciative but critical audience.

Mr. J. S. Clarke, who has been playing to crowded houses in America, will return to England early in March.

The net profit to the Birmingham General Hospital from the late festival is £6,084 6s. 7d., the largest amount ever realised.

Mr. and Mrs. German Reed will produce a new entertainment on the 23rd inst., at the Gallery of Illustration. The title—a novel one—is *A Sensation Novel*.

There are 115 original applications for admission as attorneys this term: more than 10,000 are on the rolls.

A novel in manuscript was left by Miss Austen at her death, and has been held as a sort of sacred treasure by her heirs. It was called *Lady Susan*, and is now to be published under that title in one volume.

It is stated that that the Bishop of London has remonstrated with Her Majesty the Queen against the marriage of Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise taking place during Lent.

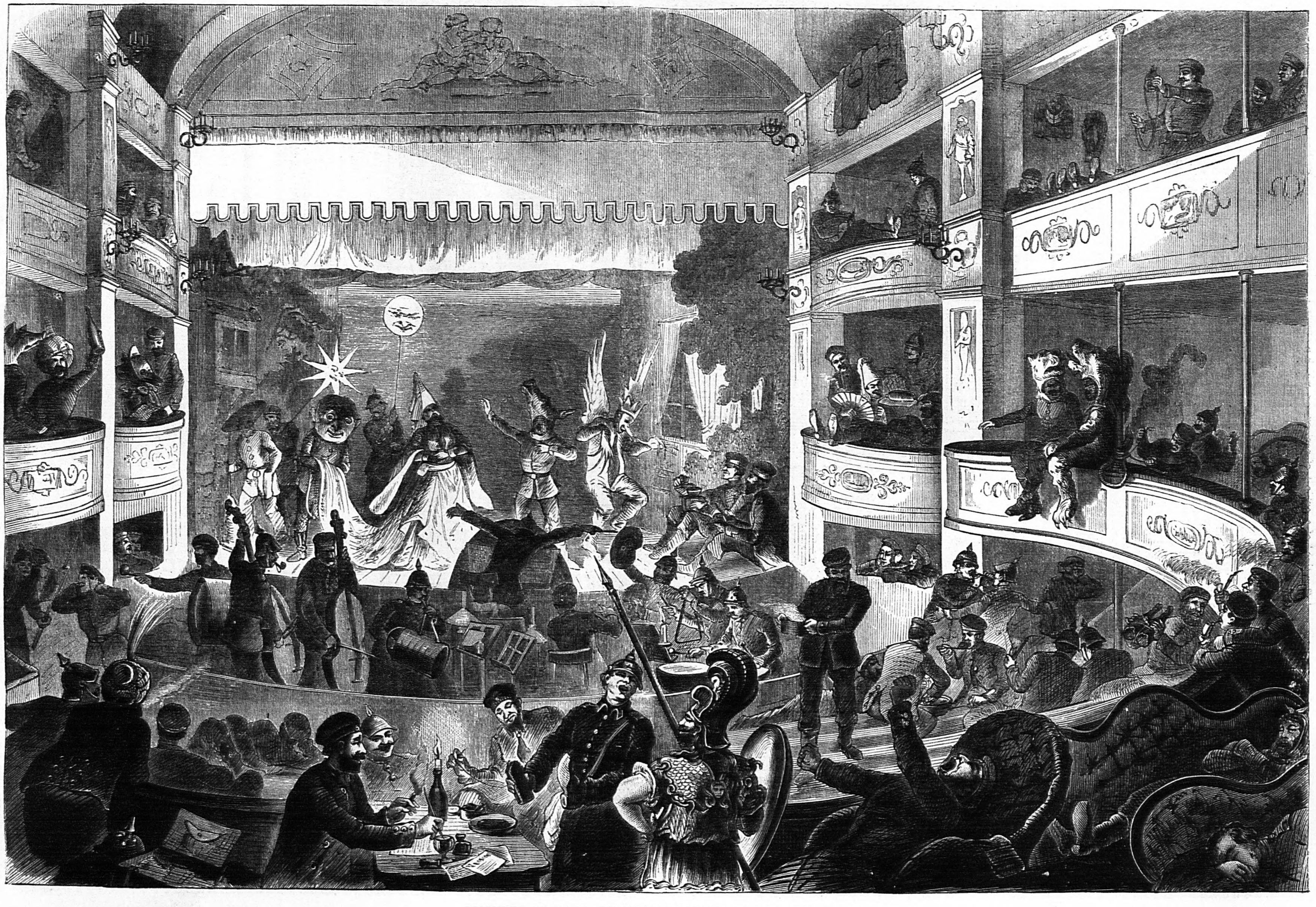
A new monthly serial has been brought out by Mr. Ruskin, in the form of "Letters to the Workmen and Labourers of Great Britain."

Mrs. Edward Thomas, whose play, *The Wife's Tragedy*, was lately produced at the Standard Theatre, died on the 7th instant.

A new series of "Breitmann Ballads," giving the adventures of Hans Breitmann as a Uhlan, has been published.

Although American literary men are looked upon as second-rate in comparison with the literary men of England, there is nothing second-rate about their means. An American journal remarks that Bryant is reported to be worth 500,000 dols.; Longfellow is estimated as possessing 200,000 dols.; Holmes, 100,000 dols.; Whitter, 30,000 dols; Saxe, 70,000 dols.; Lowell, 30,000 or 40,000 dols. In concluding, the journal exclaims, "What a prosperous set of fellows!"

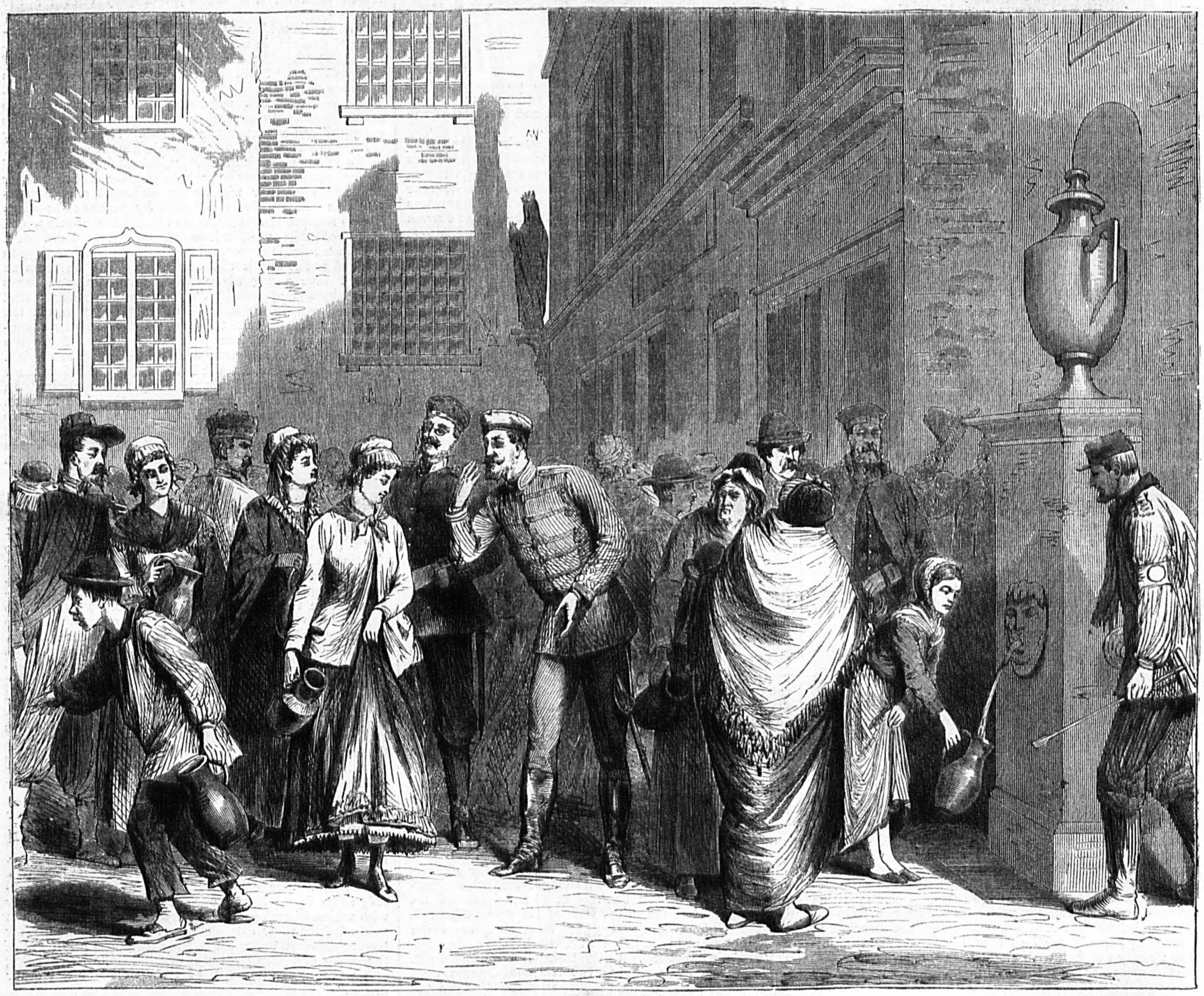
Theatrical Wigs, Whiskers, &c.—The Largest Stock in Town, for Sale or Hire. Private Wigs from 10s. to 100s. Hair Cutting, Brushing, and Shampooing, charge 6d. Immediate attendance. Respectful attention by first-class Men from the best houses of London, Paris, and Berlin. The largest and best 6d. and 1s. bottle of Pomade in the trade; has had an immense sale for eighteen years. Choice Hair Washes, from 1s. 6d. Lime Cream, from 1s. Genuine and delightfully perfumed Lime Juice and Glycerine, from 1s. to 6s. A very large assortment of Hair, Tooth, Nail, Hat, and Cloth Brushes, by best makers, from 1s. Dressing Combs in *Tortoiseshell*, *Bone*, *Ivory*, *Horn*, and *Vulcanite*, from 6d. A splendid variety of fancy Back Combs, from 1s. to 50s. Large selection of Fans from 6d. to 60s., including the newest shapes and patterns. The largest stock of Toilet Requisites and Fancy Goods in the Midland Counties, selected from the best houses of Paris and London, at STEELE'S, HAIR CUTTER and ARTIST in HAIR, Opposite the Railway Station, New-street, Birmingham. [591



PICTURES IN METZ.—SOLDIERS BILLETED IN THE THEATRE.

PICTURES IN METZ.

WHAT a change has come over Metz! A few months ago the French occupying it considered it all but invincible. Now the streets are thronged with Prussians, the German language is spoken, and many of the old inhabitants are even reconciling themselves to their ruthless conquerors. At first the girls of Metz looked on the intruders with contempt, but custom is gradually overcoming their aversion. The Germans are fine, gallant fellows, and women are soon subjugated by courteous attention from Mars. Our illustration of "The Well," on page 41, tells this story more completely than a volume might, and gives suggestive indication of future conquests which will serve still further to make Metz adapt herself to her fate. The male portion of the group in the engraving look with evident disgust on their enemies, and the disgust is shared by the old lady on the right. The boy running off with the pitcher is frightened. He has probably a lively recollection of the siege. The sketch of our artist will assist the reader to realize the change which the last few months has brought about in a town where perhaps half the male inhabitants are now the sworn enemies of the other half. As another example of the discomfort Metz has suffered through war, we refer our readers to page 40, where we give a graphic and curious illustration of soldiers billeting in the principal theatre of the place and having a pantomime on their own account. Metz was considered the strongest fortress in France, and formed the centre of defence on the frontier of Germany between the Meuse and the Rhine. It is chief lieu of the Department of the Moselle, and an important city on the score of its population, of its trade, and of its manufactures. It is seated on the Moselle, at the junction of a small stream—La Seille. The streets in the centre of the town are narrow, and the houses are lofty, but the river is lined with open *quays*, and crossed by fine bridges. The situation of Metz, with its public gardens and quays, will repay the traveller for a halt of some hours. Metz was called Divodurum by the Romans, and was the chief town of the Mediomatrici. In the fifth century it was called Mettis. The inhabitants in a time of peace were massacred by the army of Vitellius in 69, and Metz was destroyed by the Huns in 452. It became the capital of the kingdom of Austrasia, sometimes called the kingdom of Metz, in 561, and it was for a time the capital of Lorraine. It became a free Imperial city in 985, and was used by the German emperors as a barrier against France; a diet was held here in 1356. Charles VII. besieged it in 1444, and it only preserved its freedom by the payment of 100,000 crowns. Henry II. obtained possession of Metz in 1552, and, although the Emperor Charles V. besieged it with 100,000 men, after ten months he was obliged to withdraw, Jan. 1, 1553. Metz continued in the possession of the French, to whom it was formerly secured by the peace of Westphalia in 1648. Its fortifications were planned by Vauban, and continued by Marshal Belleisle. The Fort *Belle Croix*, commenced in 1731, is a masterpiece of military construction. Metz was made a Bishop's see at an early period, and councils were held here in Oct. 590, in 753, in 835; May 28, 859; in June, 863; Sept. 9, 869; and May 1, 888. The cathedral, one of the most beautiful Gothic buildings in Europe, founded in 1014, was not finished till 1546. The choir was built in 1130; it is surmounted at the cross by an elegant spire of open work, 373ft. high (built 1427); but it is without towers at the extremities. It is 373ft. long, and the elevation of the vaulted roof above the pavement is 141ft. The painted glass of the choir, executed by Anthon Busch, of Strasburg, is remarkably fine, the design good, and the colours very brilliant. The Fort called Cuve de César is very ancient, and is oblong in shape. It is probably Roman. Here are preserved the ancient stone *throne* of the early bishops, two processional crosses, 12th and 14th centuries; a cope of red silk, embroidered, said to be Charlemagne's, mass books, etc., and in a *dragon* of pasteboard, or canvas, on a wooden frame, which was formerly carried through the streets in procession, with a man inside of it. In the clerestory gallery the stained glass is very beautiful, and the visitor to the cathedral should go on the roof in order to examine the skilful arrangement of the flying buttresses, and the details of sculpture, as well as to enjoy the view over the city. Notre Dame de la Ronde, another church, has a choir built 1130. There is a round church, Eglise du Temple, within the citadel, which belonged to the Knights' Templars, somewhat like the round churches of Cambridge and Northampton. It is wholly Romanesque in style. The nave is externally an octagon; it has a low aspidal E end. Within it, and in a building near it, probably the Knights' refectory, are traces of the painting of the 13th century. There is another church which will interest the antiquary, the church of St. Ségolène. There are still remaining some of the ancient city gates, which retain the machinery for raising the portcullis. The Esplanade, with its shady walks and gardens, brilliant with flowers, planted with lofty acacias, and "confided to the care of each citizen," with the river, bridges, and fine buildings in the neighbourhood, are much to be admired. Metz has one of the largest arsenals in France, with cannon foundry, and machinery moved by water. It has a very large military hospital, capable of holding 1,500 patients. Metz is also abundantly supplied with barracks. There is also a school for the application and practice of artillery and engineering.



PICTURES IN METZ.—THE WELL.

AN INCIDENT IN THE SIEGE OF STRASBURG.

A FRENCH paper gives the following account of the experiences of one of the inhabitants of Strasburg during the siege:—"I had been established in Strasburg for many years, and my affairs had never been so prosperous as they were when the war broke out. On the approach of the enemy I sent away my wife and family, but could not leave my warehouses and shops, lest when the town was taken they should be given up to pillage. The first eight days all went well—the quarter I inhabited seemed to be spared; but on the ninth day a shell exploded in front of my house and broke all the windows on the ground floor. I thought it prudent from that time to take refuge in my cellar. I had some provisions there so that I seldom went out of it. I spent my days and evenings in reading, little thinking what was soon to befall me. On Saturday, the 10th, about midday, while I was taking a meal, I heard a tremendous noise overhead. I ran to the stairs to ascertain the amount of damage, doubtless caused by a shell falling into my house. I drew back terrified. The entrance of the cellar was stopped up by portions of the wall. The house had fallen in, and I was buried alive. What passed through my mind in the first hour of my captivity, I cannot adequately describe. I had fits of dumb anger, to which general exhaustion succeeded. By degrees I came to myself, for I must confess I completely lost my head; I collected my ideas, and thought I remembered having during the day brought down a petroleum lamp. I felt my way to the piece of furniture on which I believed I had placed it, and by good fortune there it was. I lighted it instantly. It was then that I realized my true situation. All round me there were ruins; the staircase no longer existed; I could no longer deceive myself; the house had fallen in, and the cellar was to be my tomb. To clear the rubbish on that side was my only hope, and I began it with the fury of despair. Every brick I took away made others fall; the walls crumbled continually, and I was from one moment to another threatened with destruction by the ruins. Then my lamp went out for want of oil, and for a time I gave up all hope; but the instinct of self-preservation prevailed, and I set to work again in a sort of rage. I had been working, as it seemed to me, more than two days, when the ceiling suddenly fell in; a brick struck me on the head, and I fainted. How long I remained insensible I cannot tell. When I re-opened my eyes I perceived an opening above my head; the stars were shining; it was night. I suffered horribly, and dared not move for fear of producing a fresh fall of masonry. I waited for day in mortal anxiety. As soon as I could realize my position hope returned. I made a heap of the rubbish all around me, and, clinging to a beam of the ceiling, I raised myself out of this cellar which had so nearly been my grave. Once out of it, I again gave way. When I came to myself once more, I crouched down among the ruins of my abode and wept for more than two hours. I had spent four days in that cellar. I went into it without one gray hair, and now my head is quite white. I have aged more than twenty years in four days. As for my shops, all are burnt. I had worked for ten years to set up my family in tolerable comfort. My wife and I looked for an old age exempt from care: now all must begin over again, and I see no prospect of anything but misery for our future days."

THE WAR.

The Parisians have entered upon the beginning of the end. The grasp of the Prussian forces becomes tighter, and capitulation is now looked upon as a matter of so many days. It is time to close this fearful struggle. France is beaten, and by holding out she will only sacrifice the lives of women and children, and make the terms of peace she must finally yield to harder to bear.

From the Royal headquarters at Versailles, a telegram, dated the 16th, says:—"Yesterday the enemy unmasked fresh batteries on the south side of Paris, the fire of which we, however, immediately victoriously encountered. We lost two officers and seven rank and file."

News from Paris, dated the 14th, says the following military reports have been issued:—Jan. 12. Last night Commander Blanc, with a company of Zouaves and a company of Mobiles, made a reconnaissance in the Plateau of Avron. The Prussian posts were vigorously driven away, and the small column returned before daybreak, after having captured six prisoners. The bombardment has continued during the night on the city and the establishments already indicated. From midnight until 2 a.m. about one projectile per minute has fallen in the St. Sulpice quarter. Forts Vanvres, Issy, and Montrouge have been cannonaded with great violence, but our external batteries have opened a well-sustained fire, which appears to have caused great ravages in the Prussian batteries. After half-past three the enemy considerably slackened his fire, and only threw projectiles of small weight. The villages of Nogent and Fontenay were cannonaded, but only in a very feeble manner. Our forts in the east have very vigorously fired during the night, and especially about one a.m., on the whole line of the Prussian positions. The bend of the Marne was also bombarded during the night, but without any accident to notice. At Creteil there is complete quietude to-day. Yesterday a sub-lieutenant of the National Guard was killed on the advanced posts on this side."

An official decree was published in Paris on the 12th, announcing that French citizens struck by Prussian shells will be regarded as soldiers who have been killed in front of the enemy. The families of the victims will be dealt with the same as those of the soldiers killed in action. General Trochu has published a letter, in which he protests against the odious rumours, according to which some general officers and others have been, or are to be, arrested on the charge of having betrayed secret military operations to the enemy. The Chief Commander of Vincennes praises very much the bearing under fire of the troops of the National Guard, charged with the defence of the positions on that side. During the whole of the 13th, firing was kept up slowly on the villages of Nogent and Plaisance. During the same day the bombardment of Paris increased, and became very lively from 10 o'clock until midnight, principally in the 8th section. The forts on the south side fired less violently. During the night the Prussians made several attempts upon various points of the trenches, by which the forts communicate with each other. They were everywhere repulsed.—During the last seventeen days the besieging forces have burnt a considerable quantity of ammunition, without arriving at a serious result. French losses are reported to have been comparatively small. The conflagrations having been arrested at their outbreak, the material damages have been repaired as much as possible daily. The officers, soldiers, and National Guards, have shown thorough devotion under these severe and constant trials, and the population show great firmness.

General Chanzy's army is being pursued. The following intelligence from the German columns engaged in pursuing the defeated army has been received at Versailles:—"On the 13th, General Schmidt encountered a division of the enemy near La Chapelle, two and a half miles (German) from Le Mans. General Schmidt at once vigorously attacked the French, who fell back in disorderly retreat upon Laval, leaving over 400 prisoners in our hands. The German loss was one officer and 19 men killed and wounded. The camp at Conlie has been occupied after a few shots had been exchanged, and large stores of arms, munitions, and provisions were captured. Beaumont has been occupied, after a short fight in the streets. Forty munition waggons and about 1,000 prisoners were taken. On the 14th a detachment of General Rantzau was attacked at Briare by superior hostile forces, but succeeded in fighting its way through with slight loss."

A dispatch from Paris, dated the 14th, says:—"By order of the Governor, General Vinoy yesterday evening prepared a sortie against the mill of Pierre, in which Generals Blanchard and Correard took part. The head of the column having been received by a most lively fire, the sortie was not carried on to the end, and our troops re-entered the lines. The enemy on his part attempted an attack on our advanced positions at Drancy; firing ensued, ceasing by intervals, and only terminated definitely at 1 a.m. This attack was of no consequence, and was energetically repulsed. Rear Admiral Pothieove executed a reconnaissance of the ambuscades of the enemy between the railway station Aux Bœufs and the Seine. A little later the Prussians took the offensive in great numbers, but were received with rifle shots and fell back rapidly, leaving a Prussian officer in our hands and several wounded on the ground."

General Chanzy telegraphs to Bordeaux at midnight on the 15th that the heads of the enemy's columns had appeared that evening on the roads abutting upon the French positions. An engagement had taken place between the Prussians' advanced guard and the Algerian Eclaireurs. The fighting was continued that evening with a rather strong column. The following order of the day of General Chanzy has just been issued:—"After the fortunate issue of the fight in the valley of the Huisnes and on the river Loire as far as Vendome, and after having successfully resisted, on the 11th January, before Le Mans, the main attack of the enemy's forces, commenced by the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg and Frederick Charles, some shameful cowardice, and an unaccountable panic caused a certain portion of our troops to abandon important positions, compromising the safety of all. An energetic effort was not attempted, notwithstanding the orders to that effect immediately given, and it was necessary to evacuate Le Mans. France has her eye on the Second Army. No hesitation is allowed. The season is severe. Fatigue and great privation are always with us, but the country suffers, and when one supreme effort can save it no one will hesitate. Know well also that safety is in resistance, and not in retreat. The enemy will appear on our positions. You must receive him vigorously and fight. Rally round your chiefs, and prove that you are the soldiers of Couliniers, Villepoir, Josnes, and Vendome."

THE FIGHTING ROUND LE MANS.

Writing from Rennes, on the 14th inst., the correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* gives the following account of the fighting round Le Mans:—

"Early in the morning of the 9th General Chanzy, in spite of indisposition, inspected the positions occupied by the French round Le Mans, and appeared full of confidence. At noon, when he returned to his position at Yvré-l'Evêque, the engagement, which had been opened at daybreak hy an artillery attack, had become serious. The enemy had been reinforced by 60,000 men on the preceding day, and had attacked the French on all sides. They opened a strong cannonade from between Bonnetables and Marolles on the advanced French positions in that direction, and nearer in from their positions round Yvré-l'Evêque and in front of the Huisne commenced a fierce assault.

"The result gained by the enemy was important. The detachment of the French cannonaded from Marolles and Bonnetables had to retreat, it was said, on Alençon, and the corps lying dispersed between the Loire and the Loir was cut off from the main army. Still matters were not dangerous. Round about Le Mans the French had not lost an inch of ground, and communications with the separated corps could be easily re-established by part of the line of the latter slightly falling back. When night set in the Prussians gradually retired upon their defensive positions, and all promised that the struggle would be renewed at daylight.

"The enemy did not wait till then, however, for in the middle of the night the whole town was awakened by the booming of cannon. A minute before all had been wrapped in darkness; but scarcely had the cannonade commenced than a red glare illuminated the sky; lights appeared, and shadows flitted to and fro in many a window. What had happened was this: the troops occupying the eminence on the left bank of the Huisne—a link of the positions stretching from Changé to Parigné-l'Evêque—had been surprised by the enemy. He had judged rightly: this point was the weak one. The troops occupying this position were mobilized national guards. The violent and unexpected artillery attack completely disconcerted both officers and men. The subaltern officers in command were too astounded or dismayed to give orders, and, left to themselves, these unfortunate and inexperienced troops knew not what to do. In a fatal hour they determined to retire. Horses were precipitately harnessed to the guns defending their battery, and the column commenced to retreat. They did not pause in their march until they reached the town, down the now lighted streets of which they came spreading panic and dismay. Exaggerated reports stated that Chanzy was completely routed, his positions taken, and the army all but annihilated; and the inhabitants refused to believe that no such serious disaster had taken place. After a few hours' repose, the retreating column marched out of the town, and took up position on the Buttes St. Georges. By this time it was daylight. The loss of the position of La Tuilerie was found to be irreparable, as by its possession the enemy might succeed in turning the French positions and attacking them in the rear. The generals commanding the different divisions of the army were consulted and unanimously counselled retreat, so as to guard against any turning movement of the enemy. Orders were issued accordingly.

"It was an exciting morning. While the various corps were executing the strategical movements permitting them to fall back upon the heights of St. Georges and Rouillon to the west of Le Mans, Chanzy's big breech-loading naval guns thundered upon the Prussians from his position at Yvré-l'Evêque, thus delaying their approach. In the town all was excitement. The alarm bell was ringing, the National Guards were assembling, the thousands of wounded contained in the ambulances established in the schools, churches, and public buildings were being hastly taken to the railway station, and sent off in trains, or, huddled together in conveyances of all descriptions, were leaving the town with the retreating troops. By order of the authorities two bridges across the Sarthe were blown up, and the Pont de Pontlieu across the Huisne also. The railway viaduct over the first of these two streams was mined ready to be blown up at any moment. Shortly before noon, when I repaired to the railway station, some half-dozen of the enemy's projectiles had already fallen on the town. I found the exterior courtyard of the railway station filled with an excited and frightened crowd of people, who had come to endeavour to obtain places in such trains as might yet leave. It was only with great difficulty that I obtained entrance into the station, and permission to mount into one of the departing trains. The whole place was in confusion. Steaming engines were waiting to depart. Trains were being hastily formed indifferently of passenger carriages, luggage vans, and trucks. An immense amount of war matériel covered the platform, and was being piled without regard for symmetry and order into the many trains which one by one in rapid succession steamed away. For my part, having already had the pleasure of being in a town occupied by Prussians, I had no desire to experience it again, and determined to get clear of the enemy as soon as possible. A few minutes after twelve, in company with several employés of the station, I jumped into a third-class carriage of a train which counted no less than forty carriages or trucks, all except our own filled with property of the company and military materiél. The rumbling fire we had heard through the morning, and which told us that the fighting continued, was every moment becoming louder and louder, and frequent explosions could be heard in the town in spite of the hurry, bustle, and noise which prevailed in the railway station. In another minute we were off, and having crossed the mined viaduct over the Sarthe, soon got away into the open country, beyond the thunder of the cannonade. At Laval we were detained an hour or so, the station being much encumbered with the trains which since five in the morning had been leaving Le Mans loaded with Government property, and we did not reach Rennes until late in the evening.

GERMAN TRICKS.

The Parisians are very much impressed by the wonderful tricks of the enemy. One story is that the German sentinels wear white cloaks when they stand against walls, green ones when they appear in the fields, brown ones for the woods, and grey ones for the mist:—

"Tiens, tiens!" says the Parisian, with an appearance of disdain, in which there is an undertone of admiration; "their tricks are without number." "But," says another, "I will tell you one of their tricks which deserves praise, and from which we might learn a lesson. They go about their work very quietly; we make too much noise with our clarions and drums—we warn the enemy of our movements a mile off. How much better is their low whistle! Their people hear it well enough, and we do not hear it at all." "But talking of whistles," the conversation goes on, "have you heard of that other dodge? The other night they managed a reconnaissance in the woods of Clamart by means of hootings like so many owls. Our fellows heard the hooting, and could not make out what it was at first. They have got a little instrument to hoot with." Then says another, "Quite as good as the owl is the dog trick. The outposts at Creteil have a dog who watches for them, and barks when any one approaches." Then yet another, "Oh! they are ingenious enough—and that dog reminds me that they like to take things easy. We made a reconnaissance to the Maison Blanche the other day. We found one of the houses with a large room loopholed. But if you imagine that the Prussians stand before these loopholes you are mistaken. They sit on chairs. In another house there were no chairs—they had to sit on planks—I suppose the chairs had been burnt; but to make the benches easier for the rotund sentinels—what do you think? they had got the pillows from the bed in the next room, and therewithal made cushions to repose upon."

A BONAPARTIST RESTORATION SCHEME.

The Brussels correspondent of the *Daily News* says:

"With the prisoner of Wilhelmshohe restoration to the throne has become a fixed idea, and to arrive at it he is said to have imagined the division of Belgium, whose Flemish provinces are to be handed over to Holland, while the cession of the Walloon provinces to France is to compensate her for the abandonment to Germany of Alsace, and part of Lorraine without Metz, which is to remain French, but to be dismantled. It is impossible to believe that such an arrangement, as objectionable from a moral as from a purely practical point of view, could even for a moment be seriously entertained by Count Bismarck. But it is feared on the one hand, that he may, like most able players at games of skill, become enamoured of difficulties; and on the other hand, German newspapers, the *Cologne Gazette* among others, have lately and rather inopportunely spoken of what they choose to designate as a Flemish question. It may appear a curious fact that two nationalities, such as the Flemish and the Walloon should be able to live peacefully together under the same institutions; but the fact has, nevertheless, existed for the last forty years, and neither on the part of the Flemings, nor on that of the Walloons, is there the least inclination to sever the bonds which unite them. The explanation of the fact is most probably to be found in the perfect fairness and sincerity with which liberal parliamentary institutions have been worked since their establishment. The Belgians, after having done their utmost in the scrupulous fulfilment of the duties of neutrality, are somewhat impatient at being annoyed by *ballons d'essai*, of Bonapartist or any other origin."

The Hair.—The Plain Truth.—Mrs. Allen's World's Hair Restorer will positively restore the natural original colour in every case of greyness, no matter from what cause it arises, and the hair is stimulated to natural growth. The "Zylobalsamum," as a hair-dressing for young and old, is the best article that can be used; it imparts a gloss and vigorous appearance to the hair very beautiful to see. The Restorer, 6s.; the Zylobalsamum, 3s.; in large bottles only.—Depot, 266, High Holborn, London, Sold by all Chemists and Perfumers. [189

Patent Teeth on Soft Gums.—Mr. William J. Watson, Surgeon Dentist, 16, Newhall-street, Birmingham, begs to inform the inhabitants of the Midland Counties, that he is the SOLE INVENTOR and DISCOVERER of a new system of fixing PATENT TEETH on SOFT GUMS, and he being the actual Maker is enabled to supply Teeth *at about one-third the usual charges.* Single Teeth from 3s. 6d. each; Sets from £2 10s., including all charges. Perfectly fitted at one visit. Attendance daily from nine a.m. till eight p.m. Consultation free. [164

Artificial Teeth, Painless Dentistry.—Notice of Removal. Established upwards of Half a Century. Mr. GABRIEL, the Old-Established Resident Dentist, from 65, New-street, to 11, Bennett's Hill (next to the Bank of England). Daily attendance from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Single Teeth from 5s.; complete Sets, from £5. [115

Faceache, Toothache, Tic Doloreux.—ADAM SMITH'S NEURALGINE effects a certain cure.—Depôt, 39, Ann-street. Sold by all Chemists; and J. Yardley, of Bloxwich. [107

Holloway's Pills.—Indigestion, Stomach, and Liver Complaints.—Persons suffering from derangement of the liver, stomach, or organs of digestion should have recourse to Holloway's Pills, as there is no medicine known which acts on these distressing complaints with such certain success. Its peculiar properties strengthen the stomach, increase the appetite, and rouse the sluggish liver. In bowel complaints, it is invaluable, as it removes every primary derangement, thereby restoring the patient to the soundest health and strength. These preparations should be used at all times and in all climates by persons affected by biliousness, nausea, for disordered liver; for flatulency and heartburn they are specifics. Indeed no ailment of the digestive organs can long resist their purifying and corrective powers.

BIRMINGHAM AND THE MIDLANDS.

Is there any coal beneath the red sandstone of the Midland rocks? That is a ground of inquiry upon which men of science and men of business are meeting just now and debating eagerly. If coal strata exist under those precise geological conditions, then there are new mines to be sunk and worked beyond the present confines of the South Staffordshire coal-fields, between that district and East Shropshire. The question is not wholly in the region of theory. The experiments in Sandwell Park, near Birmingham, which we referred to last week, are made in a measure in connection with the inquiry, but if the geological problem be decided in favour of the existence of coal under the conditions indicated a great many shafts will be sunk before long, and the Midland manufacturers will find themselves in a still more favourable position than they are at present to feed their furnaces cheaply, and to defy the world in competition in the lines of work which have rendered the district famous. At a meeting a few days ago of the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire Institute of Mining engineers, Professor Randall discoursed at some length on this coal problem, but he spoke with great caution, and was evidently not disposed to commit himself to an opinion, which might possibly afterwards prove incorrect, that coals would be found in large quantities in the district to which many persons have been induced to look with great hope of additional means of industry and increasing wealth. But there is money and there is enterprise in the Midlands, and the owners of land and the capitalists will not be content till they know for a certainty whether that which is called the "black-diamond"—a commodity of more real worth, not only in a commercial, but in a financial point of view, than precious stones or gold—is really to be obtained by digging and delving in the virgin soil between South Staffordshire and East Shropshire.

The Hon. Auberon Herbert has been called to account by correspondents in the local county papers for passages in his speech before his constitutents at Nottingham the other day, touching the character and conduct of the Count Von Bismarck. Mr. Herbert, it is scarcely necessary to say, is a strong sympathiser with the French in this war, especially in its later stages, and he is not at all a worshipper of the redoubtable Chancellor of the North German Confederation. Here is the passage which has given umbrage in some quarters:—"I turn back for a moment to the battle-field of Sedan. Not only did Imperialism fall there, but a great choice was offered to the German people. There, on that spot and at that hour, the spirit of good and the spirit of evil stood in front of that magnificent army, and each beckoned them its own way. A great American speaker has said on the day on which the Germans entered on their march to Paris, that day Bismarck fell from the front rank of great statesmen. Well, now, that sentence is not quite true. Do I surprise you? It was impossible for Bismarck to do anything else. It was impossible for that man—that man who had glorified the cause of violence—who had believed in the gospel of blood and iron—it was impossible for the heart of that man to feel rightly, just as it is impossible for a nether mill-stone to feel the influence of light and heat. I believe he alone is great who believes in moral force—who believes in liberty, who believes in reason and argument, who believes in fearless and unrestrained speech, who believes in faith, in humanity; and the man who does not know that these are the great forces of the world—that these great forces are growing into power so utterly that they will sweep before them every other force which stands in their way, even though that force be so magnificently strong as German armies or as Rhine fortresses—cannot appreciate the signs of the times." There were a few in the meeting, it appears, who did not quite go the length of the speaker, and somebody seemed to agree with him, in a sense contrary to his own meaning, when Mr. Herbert said that after Sedan Bismarck could do nothing else but march on to Paris. Upon the whole, however, the meeting was with him, and in spite of his critics in the county journals, the country generally will, independently of party views, applaud the people of Nottingham for their concurrence in Mr. Herbert's estimate of the character of Bismarck, and of the motives which impelled him to carry on the war to bitter extremities after the fall of the Emperor.

We said last week that the Hereford Town Council did not see its way to invite the Royal Agricultural Society to hold its show in 1872 in that city, and that the circular of the Society was handed over to the Herefordshire Chamber of Agriculture for consideration. Since then the latter body have decided not to move in the matter, unless the Society should express a strong desire to visit that county: but in that case the Chamber would do everything possible to aid the town authorities in providing a reception for the distinguished visitors, The Hereford Chamber of Agriculture need be under no apprehension. The Royal Agricultural Society never beg their way to any place. They consider the obligation to be all on the other side, and generally want a good deal of urgent pressing, and the exercise of a considerable amount of influence, before they decide to pitch their tents in any particular town. Experience justifies them in that course. The district to which they decide to go in any particular year is always a wide one, and they never want for several very warm invitations in each group of counties. At present we have heard only of Newport in South Wales as a candidate for the Society's favours in 1872, but there will, no doubt, be others in the field, and Welsh hospitality will in all probability be put to the test that year, and will not, we anticipate, be found wanting. The meeting of the Society this year at Wolverhampton will affect the movements of the Worcestershire Agricultural Society, which is making for itself a good reputation in the district. It was only last year that the Society adopted, as an experiment, the system of migrating from town to town. The first show out of Worcester was at Kidderminster, and it was a brilliant success. The people of that town, associated in the minds of English people everywhere as the manufacturers of an indigenous description of carpet, behaved most hansomely to the Society, and gave it the greatest possible encouragement to proceed on its travels about the district. It is not an unusual thing for local societies to suspend their annual meeting for one year on the occasion of a visit of the "Royal" into the neighbourhood, and to throw their prizes into a fund to augment the attractions of the great show: but there are reasons why the Worcester association need not do this, and therefore it will be advisable to hold the local exhibition as far from Wolverhampton as may be found convenient. The southern portion of country covered by the Worcester Society's operations are therefore given to understand that the Society is open to an invitation, and it will not be long, probably, before we hear of the place of meeting. The three last days of August are selected as the time, and that will remove the show sufficiently from clashing with the Wolverhamptom Exhibition, which everybody expects will be a stupendous affair.

While we are on the subject of shows, we may mention one which has been held this week. Most people are aware that the exhibition of poultry and pigeons in association with the Bingley Hall Christmas Fat Cattle Show is one of the largest and finest in the kingdom; but it is not so widely known that there is in Birmingham a Columbarian Society, whose members are all more or less pigeon fanciers. These gentlemen have this week held their sixth annual show of pigeons at the Town Hall, and we need hardly say a good many remarkable specimens were exhibited, for the Columbarians of Birmingham take care to be abreast of the times in the cultivation of the pigeon, and are learned in any new variety as soon as it is imported. The Wolverhampton great show of poultry, pigeons, and dogs will be opened on the first Monday next month.

The inquiry into the causes of the terrible and fatal explosion at Messrs. Ludlows' ammunition factory at Witton, has terminated. The vast mass of evidence has enabled the jury to arrive at no conclusion as to the immediate cause of the accident. There was a flash, and a flame, and a number of poor creatures were burnt to cinders, or maimed, or scorched. Whence came the spark, and how it expanded and filled the building with fire will never be known. There was testimony, however, enough to lead the jury to the conviction that not sufficient care is exercised in carrying on this excessively dangerous business, and that many precautions are necessary which manufacturers and workpeople have not been in the habit of adopting. The result of it all is that the work ought to be carried on under the supervision of a properly qualified officer appointed by Government. There is reason to believe that the Government will adopt this view. It is enough that people should be engaged all their days in manufacturing articles whose main use is to destroy their fellow-creatures; but at least something should be done to ensure that the ammunition does not incontinently explode in the midst of the poor women and children, who, though they occupy their time in its manufacture, are quite innocent of the purposes for which it is made.

In connection with the awful colliery explosion in Derbyshire, near Chesterfield, which occurred since the publication of our last impression, the fact has been mentioned that of the fund for the relief of the sufferers in the Oaks and Talk Colliery explosions a few years ago, a surplus of £12,000 remains in the hands of trustees, and this will probably be available as the basis of a fund for the relief of the widows and orphans of those who have been killed at the Renshaw Park Colliery. The twenty-seven men who lost their lives have left sixty children and twenty-three widows. It will take a large sum to provide against want for all those poor creatures. Happily there is not less benevolence abroad than there was when the £12,000 too much was collected.

An effort is being made at Sutton Coldfield to put an end to the anomalous state of things in that borough which we referred to a fortnight ago. That a community only six miles from Birmingham should be governed by an old-fashioned self elected corporation is naturally regarded as something remarkable, and now that the inhabitants have begun to move in the matter there can be little doubt that this relic of ancient times is doomed. It is acknowledged, however, that the gentlemen forming the corporation have, upon the whole, performed their duties in a worthy manner. To that fact may be attributed, no doubt, the long life that has been granted to that body.

The remainder of our Midland notes must be finished off briefly. Mr. Trevelyan, M.P., has been stirring up public opinion once again in Birmingham on the subject of Army Reform, contending, among other things, that the purchase system should be instantly abolished, preliminary to the introduction of other modifications.—Birmingham is about to hold a meeting to strengthen the hands of the Government in its policy of non-intervention.—Professor Huxley has been appointed President of the Birmingham and Midland Institute in the place left vacant by the death of Mr. Charles Dickens.—Mr. Woodward, a Kidderminster manufacturer, has brought out a very handsome carpet, whose design is emblematical of the approaching marriage of the Princess Louise with the Marquis of Lorne—the Rose of England in strong relief on the Argyll plaid.—The books in the Free Library at Nottingham are lent out at an average of 500 per day. We suppose there are people whose interest it is to know that to this library the Registrar General of Melbourne has presented a large number of volumes, having reference to Australian patents and patentees from 1854 to 1868.—Two gentleman of Langley Mill, near Nottingham, have, out of their own resources, built a new Wesleyan chapel in that place, to accommodate a congregation of 300.—The number of voters on the Hereford County Register has fallen since last year from 9,528 to 9,199.

WITH THE ARMY OF GENERAL VON GOEBEN.

The Correspondent of the *Daily News*, writing from Albert on January 10, sends the following interesting letter:—

"Before giving an account of our movements after the battle at Bapaume, it is necessary to explain the heading of this letter *i. e.* to tell you which is the army of General Von Goeben, of whose great talent I have already made mention in one of my former letters.

"General von Goeben's army is the same which hitherto has been commanded by General von Manteuffel. The latter has taken the command of an army formed around Dijon, consisting of the 7th Army Corps and of the joint forces of von Zastrow, and von Werder. Of the reasons why General von Manteuffel has been entrusted with the command of the new army many versions are current. One says that it was the desire of the headquarters to have the general at hand in order to take part in the victorious entrance into Paris. Another contends, on the contrary, that fault having been found with the general for attacking the enemy, or accepting battle with forces insufficient to gain decided victories, the great losses which under such circumstances must be sustained, and which indeed have been sustained latterly, were considered unnecessary, and not possible under the calmer leadership of von Goeben. The third version, however, seems to be the most probable. According to this it would have been a difficult task, in forming the new army, to decide by whom it should be commanded, General von Zastrow being nearly equal in age to General von Werder. In order, therefore, to avoid jealousy a general has been chosen whose seniority is far above that of either of the two others. Be that as it may, it is a fact that General von Goeben is the chief of the First Army; and that General Faidherbe has no occasion to rejoice at the change.

"I left off my last letter from Bapaume stating that the enemy, pursued by our cavalry division, had retreated as far as Croiselles. Here he did not stop, but fell back into the fortress of Arras, probably in order to let his men indulge in a few days' rest; for shortly after the battle rumours were current again of the French having taken position, with the intention of delivering another battle. The reader will understand that General Faidherbe's anxiety was to break through the line and to march—if it were possible to do so—towards Peronne, which was still under a heavy bombardment, well knowing that with the surrender of that fortress all operations in the north of France must be paralysed. In this effort, however, he was not successful. After the intelligence of the enemy's retreat had reached us, our army crossed the Somme, leaving only a few battalions at Bapaume, in order to reconnoitre the enemy's movements. We concentrated our forces around Peronne, without, however, taking part in the siege. It was merely our intention to be in such a position as on the one hand to prevent the enemy from marching on Peronne, and on the other to protect us from being assailed by too stroug a force. The enemy, however, not showing any desire to leave the protecting walls of the fortress, part of the army, recrossing the Somme, went back again as far as the little town from which I am writing.

"If it were of any interest to give an account of the small encounters occurring daily between our outposts and those of the enemy, or of requisition-commands, one might fill sheets. Here fifty Uhlans are surprised by the French; there an equal number of Mobiles are cut off and taken prisoners. Yesterday morning a patrol of our Cuirassiers managed to capture a whole column, leaving, however, the vehicles behind and taking with them about two hundred horses which they brought hither, where I have seen them passing my window. Considering the scarcity of these animals, General Faidherbe's army having no cavalry at all, the loss must really be considered great. It is exclusively due to the want of cavalry that General Faidherbe never is and never can be well informed as to our position; for whilst our Hussars, Uhlans, and Cuirassiers are observing the enemy within a radius of eight or ten miles, the reconnoitring of his infantry is scarcely of any importance.

"Unfortunate Péronne having been reduced to a heap of ashes, and the commandant having proved unwilling to surrender, it was resolved to take the fortress by storm. For that purpose we left yesterday our quarters, in order to march towards Péronne, and to assist the First Army in their operations. We had, however, only just entered the little town of Brayé when an orderly came galloping and bringing the welcome intelligence of the capitulation. We therefore returned to our quarters.

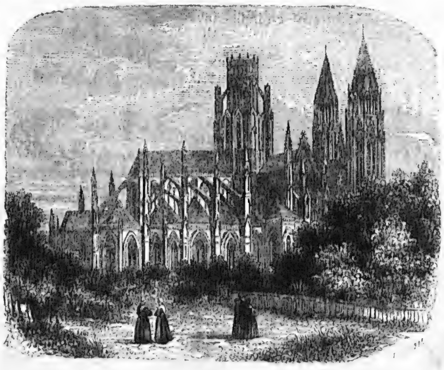
"The surrender of Péronne is an event of the utmost importance. On looking on your map you will perceive the fortresses of Amiens, Péronne, and Mézières forming one straight line of fortifications, which gives full power to check any movement of the three northern provinces—viz., the departments du Nord, du Pas-de-Calais, and de la Somme.

"Thus, with the fall of Péronne, the Army of the North is doomed to remain within the fortresses of Arras and Lille, which the Prussians will certainly leave alone. The Army of the North is thus paralysed—annihilated; and to think of being still able to penetrate the double girdle of fortresses and armies held by the Prussians, and to march on Paris, would be utter madness. The First Army Corps, which has been engaged in the siege of Péronne, will now be able, together with this, either to go into winter quarters or to join the army before Paris; leaving merely a sufficient garrison to defend the fortress, and to keep up the line of communication to the left with Amiens, and to the right with Mézières."

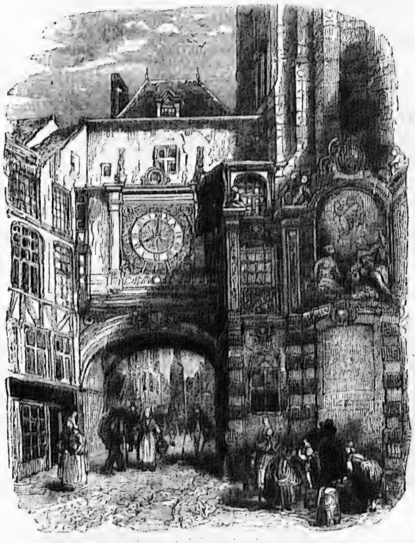
Dr. Walton writes—*Nov.* 20, 1860, from *Coshocton, Ohio*:—"I am happy to inform you that Perry Davis's Pain Killer cures this new disease, diphtheria, or sore throat, that prevails to so alarming an extent in this section. It has proved so successful here that scarcely any other remedy is now used, and I have not known it fail in a single instance when used in time.

SKETCHES IN ROUEN.

ROUEN, which is now in possession of the Prussians, is the most interesting city in France, next to Paris. It stands on the right bank of the Seine, being eighty-six miles from the capital, and is built between gently sloping hills that were once covered with forests belonging to the ecclesiastical establishments of the city. The surrounding country is still beautifully wooded. The course of the river, both above and below Rouen, is thickly studded with small islands. On the left bank, fronting the city, is the extensive suburb of St. Sever; and still further to the south is the Forêt de Rouvray. The peninsula next below Rouen is covered by the Forêt de Roumare, the next above it by the Forêt du Pont de l'Arche. To the north, north-west, and north-east, behind Rouen, stretch the high lands of Normandy, the plains of the Pays de Caux, and the Vexin Normand. The situation is one of extreme beauty and salubrity, and also unlimited convenience. The river, which is nearly 1,000 feet broad, is deep enough to admit vessels of 800 tons burthen to lie off the quays. Whoever stands upon the river on the south-east, on the Mont St. Catherine, or upon any of the adjacent heights, will at once confess the beauty of the position to be second only in all France to that of Lyons. The town is not defaced by much smoke, the manufactories are not crowded together, but are interspersed with trees; and the general aspect is one of rural cheerfulness. The fruit-covered plains along the Seine, separated from wooded hills, dotted with houses and villages, by the silvery windings of the river, make the aspect as lovely in detail as it is grand in extent. All visitors to Rouen, when peace comes again, should go up Mont St. Catherine, and to the Church of Bon Secours, to see from thence the surrounding country, and above all the city itself. It is one of the chief views of France—certainly of Normandy. The mass of buildings in the city and the suburbs, with the towers of the great churches rising from the midst, the shipping along the quays, the bridges stretching across the river, and the river itself, running from south-east to south-west, all make up a picture that once seen will not quickly be forgotten. The general *contour* of the mediæval city may be considered as identical with the line of boulevards, forming shady walks and roads, and running round the city from one part of the river to the other. These boulevards were laid out and planted after the old fortifications had become useless and had been removed. They are wide, and make agreeable promenades. Commencing from the east, outside them are the faubourgs: the Faubourg Martainville, at the foot of Mont St. Catherine, on the river towards the south-east, above the city; the Faubourg St. Hilaire, more towards the east; the Faubourg Beauvoisine, on the north-east; the Faubourg Bouvreuil, on the north; and the Faubourg Cauchoise, on the north-west. The manufacturing establishments and the working-classes occupy all these faubourgs; but they are not so dirty or disagreeable as is often the case in other manufacturing towns, and especially in England. On the contrary, they abound in gardens and trees. The inhabitants among them enjoy beautiful views and fresh air; and they are full of the villas and *maisonettes* of the wealthier inhabitants. Among these faubourgs, outside the line of boulevards, there are no less than six public cemeteries. Immediately opposite the city, in the channel of the river, is the island of Lacroix, a kind of faubourg across which extends the chief bridge, or Pont de Pierre, with a statue of Corneille on the island. Lower down, and half way across, is the island of the Petit Gay, or Petit Gué, where once was a ferry, and which is now planted with trees. On the southern, or left bank, beyond the river, is the large suburb of St. Sever, which is to Rouen what Southwark is to London. Though strictly a manufacturing place of business this suburb is anything but disagreeable. The open country comes close up to it, and the great forest of Rouvray begins not far to the south. The roads are wide and abound in trees, and altogether it is remarkably healthy.

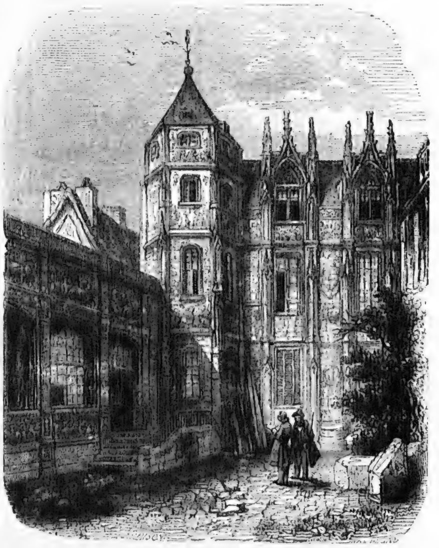


NORTH VIEW OF THE ABBEY OF ST. OUEN.



LA GROSSE HORLOGE.

The Abbatial Church of St. Ouen, which forms the first illustration on this page, was founded in the reign of Clothaire I. It was dedicated to St. Peter, and was of the order of St. Benedict. The church which existed at that early period, and which had been consecrated by Flavian, Archbishop of Rouen, was burned during an inroad of the Northmen in 841. It was rebuilt and also reconstructed after the conversion of Rollo and the establishment of the Duchy. Originally it had been placed under the invocation of St. Peter, but on this second building it was placed under that of St. Ouen, one of the archbishops of the seventh century. The Dukes of Normandy protected and added to the endowments of the abbey, and by the munificence of subsequent benefactors nine priories, nine chapels, and eighty parishes in France were placed under the control of the abbot. In 1046 a new church was begun by Abbot Nicholas, but it was not finished till 1226. The abbey had in the meantime furnished fifteen vessels and 100 men-at-arms to aid Duke William in his expedition to England. Two of its monks were present at the battle of Hastings, and one of its body assisted in the compilation of "Domesday Book." Lands and several manors in England were bestowed on the abbey by William the Conqueror. The new abbey church was burnt in 1236, and after being repaired it was again injured by fire in 1248. In 1318 Abbot Jean Roussel, surnamed Marc d'Argent, began the present building, with Alexander Berneval as *maitre maçon*. The works were carried on continuously for twenty-one years, within which time the whole of the choir, with its aisles and chapels, and the greater portion of the north and south transepts, were completed at the cost of 63,000 lbs. of silver. It is said that Berneval, the chief architect, had entrusted the erection of the rose window in the north transept to his apprentice, while he himself constructed that in the south transept. On the completion of the two he became so jealous at having been, as he considered, surpassed in skill that he stabbed his apprentice to death. A similar story is told in connection with Lincoln Cathedral, where there are two beautiful windows, similar to those we have mentioned, and were the work of master and apprentice, but in this case the master stabbed *himself* and not his apprentice, which was certainly the more praiseworthy of the two, if any praise can be attributed to either. For this crime Berneval was tried and executed, but in consideration of the great work he had accomplished, and the benefit he had bestowed on the abbey, the monks gave him burial, and interred him in the Chapel of St. Agnes, where an incised slab to this day commemorates himself and his victim. The disturbed state of France during the remainder of the fourteenth and the first half of the fifteenth century hindered the church from proceeding towards completion, and it was not till the end of the fifteenth century that the central tower and the greater part of the nave were finished. The works, indeed, extended into the sixteenth century, and the gable of the nave with its great rose window was not completed till 1515. At that time the foundation of two flanking towers for the west front was laid, but in 1543 the works were suspended, and the original design was never carried out any further. During the troubles of the Huguenot times in the sixteenth century this church suffered very much; especially when the fanatics made bonfires inside it in 1562, and burnt the organ, stalls, pulpit, and vestments. The church was repaired during the seventeenth century, and the wrought iron railings beneath the piers of the choir were put up. At the close of the eighteenth century the building was exposed to the fury of the Revolutionists. At that time it was used as a manufactory of arms. A forge was erected within it, and the painted windows were so blackened by the smoke as to become indecipherable. Later still, in the time of Napoleon, a project was actually laid before the municipality of Rouen for destroying the church altogether, and it is a wonderful circumstance that it should have been preserved. During the present century, however, it was determined to complete the west front, and restore the church thoroughly. The original plan of Abbot Roussel and his architect Berneval had been fortunately followed carefully till the work stopped in the middle of the sixteenth century; and the original plan still exists in the library of the Hotel de Ville. It would have been better, therefore, when the completion was decided upon to have carried it out according to the conception of the first architect; but the authorities thought otherwise, and the works were carried on as we now see them to their final completion in 1851, at a cost of £48,000.

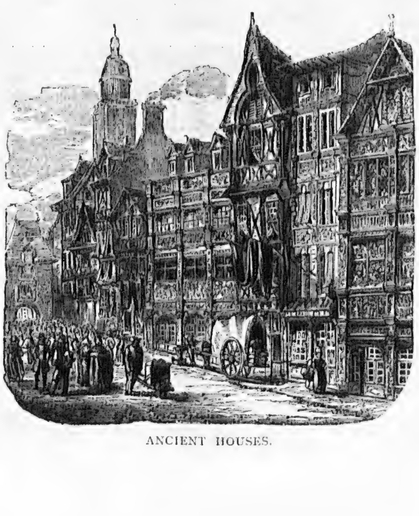


HOTEL BOURGTHEROUDE.

The Tour de la Grosse Horloge, the second subject of illustration, is one of the buildings in Rouen which is most intimately associated with its municipal history. It is also known by the name of the Beffroi, because it was the municipal tower and the badge of freedom, the same as all the corresponding towers erected in Italy, France, and Belgium, whenever the cities came to obtain the charters and full corporate privileges. The old Hôtel de Ville stood close by it before the Revolution. On the front of the building, which spans the main street with an arch, is the town clock. It was begun in 1388, and was nearly a century in building, during all the disastrous epochs, when its bell had frequently to sound the tocsin and summons the citizens to arms. Cloche d'Argent was the name given to the bell originally hung in it. This name was given to it on account of the great quantity of that precious metal which entered into its composition, seeing that in 1381, when Charles the VI. confiscated both bell and tower, as a punishment for a riot among the inhabitants, a new bell had to be cast on the regaining of the privilege; and, while it was in the melting pot, so many of the citizens came forward and threw in offerings of silver, that the composition of the metal was highly enhanced in value. So runs the popular tradition. In 1527 was built the archway over the street, over the spot where a city gate had stood, called La Porte Massacre, in remembrance of a bloody event in connection with one of the sieges of the place. The fountain at the foot of the tower was first set up in 1250, but the sculptured compartment above it is of the time of Louis XV., with figures of Alpheus and Arethusa.

The Hôtel Bourgthéroude, depicted in our third illustration on this page, was begun towards the end of the fifteenth century by a rich seigneur, Guillaume le Roux, and completed by his son, the Abbot of Aumale and of Val Richer. Without doubt it is the finest specimen of *domestic* architecture now remaining in the city. The building is profusely ornamented with medallions and sculptures of the most delicate execution. What it is principally noted for, however, is a series of sculptured panels, representing the interview between Henry the Eighth of England and Francis the First on the Field of the Cloth of Gold, near Guisnes. These sculptures have been engraved several times. The whole building constitutes a grand example of the style of the sixteenth century. It was in this hotel that the Earl of Shrewsbury was lodged when he came as ambassador from Queen Elizabeth to invest Henri IV. with the order of the Garter.

We complete our sketches of Rouen with an engraving of Ancient Houses. These old gabled houses



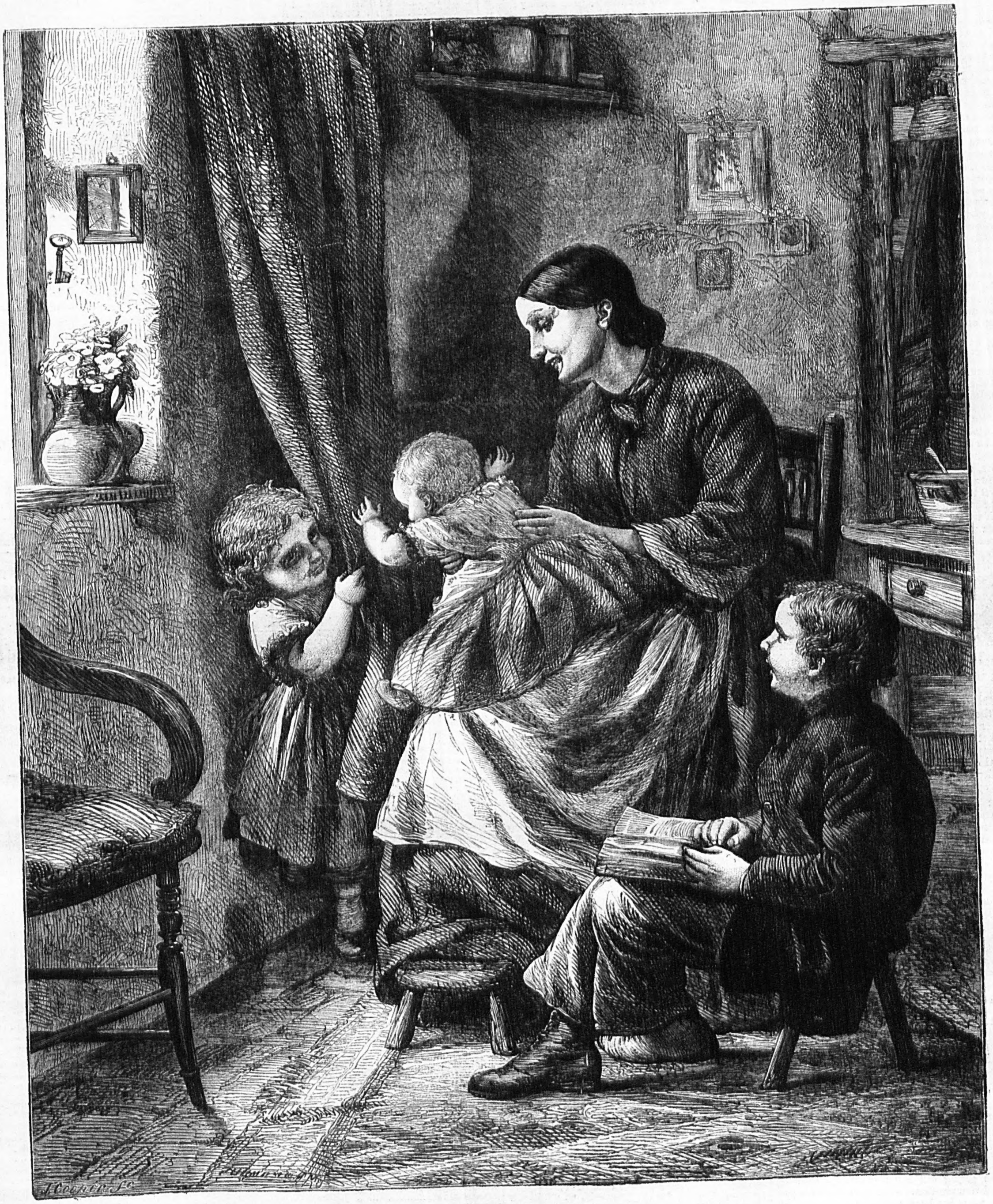
ANCIENT HOUSES.

are to be met with in nearly every street, and are crammed with history and romance. There are two houses in the city too closely connected with the literary glories of the place to be omitted in any description of Rouen. One is at No. 4, Rue de la Pie, to which is affixed the inscription :—

"Ici est né, le 6 Juin, 1608, Pierre Corneille."

Our readers will scarcely believe us when we tell them that the owner of this house had it almost entirely destroyed in 1861, and "beautified" into a new one! How should we like Shakespeare's house at Stratford-on-Avon "beautified" in this manner? No doubt it would have been done, even like the house where Corneille was born, had not the public intervened. The door of Corneille's house with its knocker is preserved in the mnseum. Next door to this house was that of Thomas Corneille, his brother, and they communicated by a small door from the poet's study to his brother. When Pierrre was plagued sometimes for a rhyme he would tap at the door and call out, "*Hola! sans souci! une rime!*" Thomas would knock him off a rhyme, and the great poet could then go on. The other house is in the Rue des Bons Enfants, and bears the inscription :—

"Fontenelle est né dans cette maison, le 14 Fevrier, 1657."



LITTLE BO-PEEP!

It stands at the entrance of the Place de la Cathedral, and is a charming specimen of the fifteenth century.

The old Gothic fountains to be met with in several of the streets are one of the distinguishing features of Rouen. The principal are La Croix de Pierre, in the Correfour St. Vivien erected in 1500 by that great benefactor of the City, the Cardinal Archbishop Georges d'Amboise. La Fontaine de la Crosse, a beautiful specimen of fifteenth century work, richly sculptured with niches and tracery. La Fontaine de Lisieux, in the Rue de la Savonnerie, erected in 1518, a good example of the style of the Renaissance. It may here be mentioned that Rouen continued to be an old fashioned place so long that the streets were not lighted at all until 1769. There are two bridges over the Seine. The first bridge constructed at Rouen, and the lowest down in the course of the Seine from Port de l'arche, was erected by the Empress Maud, daughter of Henry I. It was destroyed during the wars with the English in the fifteenth century. Part of its ruins remained, however, till the time of Louis XIV. A bridge of boats was afterwards substituted for it, and in 1836 a suspension bridge was thrown over the Seine in its stead. There is an opening in the centre of bridge, made practicable for vessels to go up the river. A second bridge of stone was built in 1829, resting midway on the north-west point of the Isle Lacroix, and at this spot on a platform stands the statue of Pierre Corneille, the tragic poet. There is a little lodge at the end of the suspension bridge, erected by the City for Louis Brune, a man famous for having saved many persons from drowning.

REMANDED PRISONERS.—It would be well, the *Law Journal* thinks, if policemen and prison officials were taught the elementary principles of the criminal law. They would then understand that accusation is not a proof of guilt, and that, until a person is convicted and sentenced by a competent tribunal, any degree of punishment, save durance, is unlawful. Remanded prisoners ought to suffer no other annoyance than the loss of liberty. The case of Alice Adams, who declares that she was compelled by an officer of the House of Detention to put on wet clothes, has attracted public attention. On the inhumanity of such conduct we need not dilate; but we are afraid, and we have reason to suppose, that remanded prisoners are subjected to unnecessary hardships and privations. All that can be lawfully done is to keep the remanded prisoners in safe custody, and the same observation applies to those who are committed for trial.

WASTE OF LIFE.

THE sacredness of human life is a dogma proclaimed by all moralists, and acknowledged in theory by all civilised nations. But the practice does not agree with the theory. The slaughtering of thousands in war, even such warfare as is now being waged in France, is justified on the grounds of expediency. It is better that some should die before their time than that they and millions of their countrymen should live on under conditions that render life not worth having. But what is the waste of life caused now-a-days by war in comparison with the waste of life that occurs in time of peace? Last Monday, at a meeting or the Social Science Association, Dr. Lankester reported that, as coroner for the central district of Middlesex, he had held one thousand three hundred and twenty inquests during the year ending July, 1869. And there is good reason for believing that those figures, about the annual average for his district, represent only a small proportion of the deaths occurring therein from accident or violence. Inquests are held over the dead bodies of grown men and women, and of an innumerable multitude of children, known to have come by their death out of the course of nature. But the corpses of small babies are rarely brought before a coroner's jury. They are supposed to die from "natural causes;" and they do die in England, naturally or unnaturally, by thousands every week. If a mother goes shopping at twelve o'clock on Saturday night, with her infant in her arms, and the infant dies of cold, it dies naturally. If the mother gives it too much medicine when it is ailing, if she doses it with gin to keep it quiet, if she rolls over it in bed, or if any one of a thousand common accidents happen and it dies, it dies naturally. The baby born a few weeks ago, dies to day, is at once huddled into a coffin—perhaps with half-a-dozen others, or by the side of a grown body—and to morrow it is forgotten. Thus life is wasted. Shall we make too high a guess if we say that a quarter of million babies die "naturally" every year in London? Hard, matter-of-fact people tell us that it is better that they should die in infancy than that they should live on to jostle one another in the cruel struggle for existence to which most men and women are subjected in this over-crowded land of ours. It may be so, but what then of our dogma about the sacredness of human life? It is a good dogma, and one worth enforcing. The problem for us to solve is, how can the dogma be enforced and yet the miseries of accumulating over-population be averted or lessened? The writer of a letter which we print in another column suggests the answer; and we commend it to the attention of our readers. Surely it is better to limit the number of children born into the world than to give birth to them and then to kill them.—*Examiner.*

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Record* objects to the prevalent habit of representing the sufferings of Paris as the punishment of French immorality. He assigns as his reason the fact that French novels do much less harm than the writings of German neologists.

SEVERAL convictions for smoking on the Metropolitan Railway have recently taken place. The directors lately received a communication from the Board of Trade, reminding them of the exemption of the line from the operation of the Act of 1868, and intimating that if the company were unable to put a stop to the practice, the reason for relieving them of the necessity for providing smoking compartments would appear no longer to exist.

THE MANUFACTURE OF FIRE ARMS IN BIRMINGHAM.—The greatest activity continues in the military gun trade in Birmingham. The productive power of the various houses employed in the trade is taxed to the utmost, and the result is a weekly turn out of from 6,000 to 7,000 military rifles of all kinds. Breechloaders are, of course, most in request; but buyers are compelled to take whatever kind of arm can be produced by the machinery possessed by the maker, it being a work of much time to prepare machinery for a new description of gun. At the Small Arms Factory, where about 2,000 hands are employed, from 4,000 to 5,000 Enfields are every month converted into breechloaders, for the use of the volunteers. This large compnny has not yet obtained the full working power of the machinery, and a much greater amount of work will be attainable in a few weeks. For the last four months the factory has been incessantly at work, a new set of hands relieving the day workers every evening. In view of the continuance of the war fever a new company has set to work and purchased land on which to build another extensive small arms manufactory, where, under the superintendence of Mr. Westley Richards, it is proposed to employ about 1,500 men, and to turn out 2,000 rifles per week. This would increase the total make in Birmingham to nearly 10,000 per week. Agents of the Russian Government are in Birmingham giving out large orders for military arms and ammunition. One firm in the town for some years has been regularly patronised by the Government of the Czar, and an order for some 30,000 rifles was completed a few months ago. It is stated that an order for another 30,000 is being negotiated in the town, though it must be some months before it can be completed. There are at present some very extensive contracts under execution for Russia for railway rolling stock, and the exigencies of war are specially provided for in the construction of these vehicles. Large quantities of cartridges are being turned out at the various works in Birmingham. Messrs. Kynoch and Co. have since the late deplorable accidents separated the processes, and taken many other precautions, by means of which greater safety has been secured, and at the same time an increased production has been attained.

MILITARY INSTRUCTION.—If the examination which Mr. Cardwell has established for Volunteer officers were a real test of their knowledge, the number of those who have presented themselves for examination, and the very large proportion who have passed, would show that the officers of the Volunteer service have far more knowledge of their work and more energy than they have been credited with. Unfortunately there has been no fixed standard of examination; and while some officers have been carefully tested, others have felt that their examination was little better than a farce. The mere fact that a man knows "how hits are signalled, and their value," and "the size of the bull's-eye in aiming drill," certainly does not prove his fitness to command; and in many cases no practical test of ability to drill a company has been required. What is wanted for the Army, Militia, and Volunteers is that some standard should be fixed, on attaining which an officer should be pronounced fit to command a company. This should include drilling a company in close and open order, guards, pickets, and outpost duty, together with some theoretical knowledge of tactics. Let this knowledge be acquired anywhere and anyhow, provided only that one standard is established for all infantry officers. Doubtless officers of the army require to know more than this, but no captain of any branch of the service should know less.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE quinquennial census of the United States, just completed, shows a population of 39,000,000. It has increased 22 per cent. in the decade, and at the same rate will, in 1900, reach 75,000,000.

AMUSEMENTS.

THEATRE ROYAL, BIRMINGHAM.
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And the very best PANTOMIME ever yet produced in this Theatre (*vide* Press and Public Opinion), entitled
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Lower Boxes, 3s.; Upper Boxes, 2s.; Pit, 1s.; Gallery, 6d. Second price at Nine o'clock. Box Office open from Eleven until Three o'clock. [44

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MR. ESKELL, of 8, Grosvenor-st., the Author of "Pure Dentistry, and What it Does for Us," "Painless Tooth Extraction; or, Anæsthesia Locally Applied," "Dental Surgery; a Practical Treatise," "Modern Dentistry; its Principles and Practice," &c., may be CONSULTED DAILY, as hitherto, from ten to four o'clock, at his residence, 8, Grosvenor-street, Grosvenor-square (a few doors from Bond-street).

N.B.—The above works may be obtained of SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, & Co., Stationers' Hall-court; of all Booksellers; or of the Author, post free for 7 stamps each.

LIVERPOOL SEAMEN'S ORPHAN INSTITUTION.
DONATIONS are earnestly requested towards the COST of the BUILDING about to be erected on Land granted by the Corporation of Liverpool, in Newsham Park.

Upwards of 150 Orphan Children of our Seamen are now waiting admission, the Temporary Home being quite full.

Donations may be paid to A. Heywood, Sons, & Co., Bankers, Liverpool; Barclay, Bevan, & Co., London; to James Beazley, Liverpool; R. Alexander, Treasurer; or to RALPH BROCKLEBANK, President. [227

LIFEBOAT SERVICES.—During the Storms of the past year the National Lifeboat Institution contributed to the saving of 784 lives from various shipwrecks and 21 vessels from destruction. It has now 225 Lifeboat Stations under its management. Contributions are earnestly solicited, and will be thankfully received by Messrs. Willis & Co., Coutts & Co., Herries & Co., by all the other London and Country bankers, and by the Secretary, RICHARD LEWIS, Esq., at the Institution, 14, John-street, Adelphi, London. [228

HOMELESS BOYS OF LONDON, REFUGES FOR HOMELESS AND DESTITUTE CHILDREN, and "CHICHESTER" TRAINING SHIP.

Upwards of 500 Boys and Girls are now being supported in these Refuges and Ship.

Owing to the benevolent and praiseworthy exertions which have for several months been made to aid the sick and wounded in the present war, the funds for the support of these Refuges and Ship have decreased considerably.

An URGENT APPEAL is therefore made for assistance to support the inmates.

£15 will keep a boy or girl for one year, and £1 5s. for a month.

Contributions thankfully received by the London and Westminster Bank, 214, High Holborn, W.C., and 41, Lothbury, E.C., and by
WILLIAM WILLIAMS, Secretary.
No. 8, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, W.C. [292

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FOR THE
ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS.

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The Paper is supplied at the stalls of Messrs. Smith and Sons throughout the Kingdom.

MESSRS. ROBERT COCKS & CO. beg to announce that they have this day issued their list of novelties for 1871, containing all the newest and most popular Songs, Duets, Piano Solos, Dances, etc., which will be forwarded post free on application. New Burlington-street, London.

NEW MUSIC FOR VOICE AND PIANO.

VOCAL.	PIANOFORTE.
Robin. 3s.	West's Marseillaise. 4s.
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The Snow lies White. 3s.	The Bells of Aberdovey. 3s.
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Happy be thy Dreams. 4s.	Echo of Lucerne. 3s.
	The No. 1 Musical Box. 4s.

All at half-price, post free.

THE LIGHTS FAR OUT AT SEA. Song composed by ALFRED SCOTT GATTY. London: Robert Cocks and Co.

"Mr. Gatty, by the production of 'The Lights Far Out at Sea,' has not lessened the prestige as a song writer which he established by his setting of 'O Fair Dove, O Fond Dove,' and 'O Doubting Heart.' On the contrary, the present production will enhance his reputation, for when sung by a contralto voice in a sympathetic manner it will hardly be possible for it to prove ineffective."—Vide Midland Counties Herald. Post free for 18 stamps.

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EXCELSIOR HOUSE,
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BIRMINGHAM.

☞ TURNER and WEBB intend opening the above premises on SATURDAY, JANUARY 21st, 1871, for the sale of Haberdashery, Hosiery, Gloves, Umbrellas, Berlin Wools, &c.

Special attention is called to their Ladies' Kid Gloves in all colours at 1s. 11½d. [236

THE MIDLAND LAND AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION, LIMITED.
Waterloo-street, Birmingham.

ADVANCES made upon approved FREEHOLD or LEASEHOLD SECURITIES.
Deposits received at Interest.
The Directors are prepared to negotiate for the purchase of Freehold Estates.
226] HENRY ALLBUTT, Secretary.

COUNTRY LADIES AND LONDON FASHIONS.—The many advertisements of the day, addressed frequently to the inexperienced, whilst they appear to offer facilities, only perplex ladies residing at a distance from the metropolis; nay, all Londoners themselves.

To assist suburban and remote customers, Messrs. JAY transmit patterns by post, or otherwise, and ladies may rest assured that the specimens and the goods will literally agree; and that in dealing with the old-established firm of Messrs. JAY they will buy at as cheap a cost as in any shop in London.

MESSRS. JAY have experienced Dressmakers and Milliners who act as Travellers, so that, in the event of immediate mourning being required, or any other sudden emergency for dress, one can be despatched to any part of the kingdom on receipt of letter or telegram, without any expense to the purchaser. All articles are marked in plain figures, and charges are the same as if the goods were bought for ready money at the warehouse in Regent-street.

Messrs. JAY having adopted a fixed tariff, publish the following epitome of their charges for

DRESSMAKING.	s.	d.
Making Dress, with plain skirt	10	6
Making Dress with Tucks of Crape or Fancy Trimmings, from	14	6
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Making Widow's Bodice, ditto, ditto	8	0
Mounting Skirt into Band, with Alpaca Pocket	1	6
Mounting ditto ditto, with Black Silk Pocket	2	6
Mounting ditto ditto, without Pocket	1	0
Silk Body Lining	5	6
Silk Sleeve Lining	3	6
Silk Low Body and Sleeve Lining	5	6
Lawn Body Lining	1	6
Sleeve Lining	1	0
Silk Facing	1	10½
Petersham Ribbon for Banding	0	8
Petersham Waistband, Covered Crape and Rosette	2	6
Making Garibaldi	6	0
Making Low Bodice	6	0
Sundries	1	6

Tucker, Braid, and Trimmings Extra.

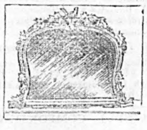
THE
LONDON GENERAL MOURNING WAREHOUSE,
247, 249, *and* 251, *REGENT-STREET.*
JAYS'. [877

FINE FLAVOURED STRONG BEEF TEA at about 2½d. a pint. ASK FOR LIEBIG COMPANY'S EXTRACT of Meat, requiring Baron Liebig, the Inventor's Signature, on every jar, being the only guarantee of genuineness. [234

INDIGESTION.—The Medical Profession adopt Morson's Preparation of PEPSINE as the true remedy.—Sold in bottles and boxes from 2s. by all Pharmaceutical Chemists and the Manufacturers.—THOS. MORSON & SON, 124, Southampton Row, Russell Square, London. [845

HAWKES AND ROLANDI,

LOOKING GLASS MANUFACTURERS.



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125, *BROMSGROVE-STREET, BIRMINGHAM.* [83

PRESENTS—SPECIAL.

SEWING MACHINES,

UNEQUALLED FOR FAMILY USE.

THE ALBERTA SILENT LOCK-STITCH.

In Casket, complete, 5 gs. With Square Stand, 6 gs. With Ornamental Bronzed Stand, 6½ gs.

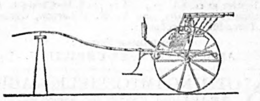
The Excelsior, Price with Stand from 6 gs.

Hand Machines, from 30s.

First-class Lock-Stitch, from 70s.

LISTS FREE. [181

WHIGHT & MANN, 143, Holborn Hill, London.

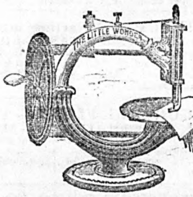


FORDER & CO.'S CELEBRATED LIGHT GIGS. Weight, 3 cwt. In stock: ready to take home with you.—CARRIAGE WORKS, WOLVERHAMPTON. [150

SLATER & CO.'S

LITTLE WONDER LOCK-STITCH SEWING MACHINES.

BOTH SIDES ALIKE, £3 3s.



REDUCTION IN PRICE OF SEWING MACHINES, with all the latest Improvements. The Wheeler and Wilson's, £5 10s.; No. 2 Howe's, £6 10s.; No. 2 Thomas's, £7; Patching Machines, for Repairing Old Boots, or general work, £8. Any other make repaired or altered. Second-hand Machines, £2 —N.B. Slater and Co.'s Manufactory, 18 and 19, Edmund-street, near the Town Hall. [36

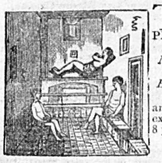
FLAGS FOR HIRE
Suitable for any purpose
apply to
LEGG & COMPY
Flag & Banner Painters
131, BROMSGROVE St BIRMINGHAM.

[9

CANTHARIDINE
RESTORATIVE
FOR THE HAIR

Prepared by

H. PEDLEY, FAMILY CHEMIST,
29, *HORSEFAIR, BIRMINGHAM.*
In 1s. and 2s. 6d. Bottles. [88



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No. 14, *CRESCENT,*
CAMBRIDGE-STREET,
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Open daily for Ladies and Gentlemen (Sundays excepted) from 8 a.m. till 8 p.m.

LIST OF TERMS ON APPLICATION.

N.B.—The only Establishment in the Midland Counties where you can have such a variety of Baths for the purposes of luxury and health.

JAMES MELLING, *Proprietor.*

MISS MELLING, *Superintendent of the Ladies' Department.* [909

THE LONDON

STAR TEAS

2 lb
5/-
3 lb
7/6
6 lb
14/-

LOCK CANISTERS, 1s. 3d., 1s. 6d., and 2s. each

74B, WORCESTER ST. BIRMINGHAM. [183

CHAMBERS' JOURNAL,

29TH YEAR.

AN ORIGINAL AND INTERESTING TALE HAS JUST COMMENCED, ENTITLED—

"WON NOT WOOED."

SAFE INVESTMENTS FOR CAPITAL.

Dividends, 10 to 20 per cent.

Read SHARP'S INVESTMENT CIRCULAR *(Post Free).*

(THIS MONTH'S NUMBER NOW READY.)

It contains all the best-paying and Safest Stock and Share Investments of the day.

SHAREHOLDERS, INVESTORS, TRUSTEES, CAPITALISTS

Will find the above Investment Circular a safe, valuable, and reliable Guide.

Messrs. SHARP & CO., Stock and Share Brokers, 33, Poultry, London, E.C. (Established 1852.)

Bankers: London and Westminster, Lothbury, London, E.C. [419

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PATENT

Entire Wheat Flour

Highly recommended by the faculty as the most nutritious and easily digested food for infants, children, and invalids. Its richness in *phosphates* makes it invaluable during teething; it is a singularly digestive and nourishing food for children, and is an excellent diet for invalids, being retained in the stomach when Arrowroot, Corn-flour, and similar articles are rejected.

From the "Lancet," 2nd April, 1870.

We hope it will take the place of the purely starchy compounds now in use, both in the case of children and adults.

From Professor ATTFIELD, F.C.S., Professor of Practical Chemistry to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, &c.

Its richness in gluten or flesh-forming material, and earthy phosphates, or bone and teeth-forming substance, show it to be a very valuable food, especially for children. It is incomparably superior to Arrowroot, Corn-flour, and other forms of starch, which contribute but little to the formation of bone or muscle.

Retail of Family Grocers and Druggists, &c., in 3d., 6d., & 1s. packets, & 3s. Tins. Wholesale of the Sole Proprietors.

Orlando Jones & Co.,

Inventors and Patentees of **LONDON,**

Rice Starch.

N.B.—This Starch, the Strongest and Purest made, may be used with Cold Water, and retains its stiffness in the Dampest Weather.

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PYRETIC SALINE

Is noted for making a most invigorating, vitalizing, and refreshing draught, that gives instant relief in Headache, Sea or Bilious Sickness; it quickly cures the worst form of Eruptive or Skin Complaints, and the various diseases arising from Constipation, the Liver, or Blood Impurities, Inoculation, the results of breathing air infected with Fevers, Measles, or Small Pox, *are Cured and Prevented by its Use.* Sold by all Chemists and the Maker. In Patent Glass Stoppered Bottles, at 2s. 6d., 4s. 6d., 11s. and 21s. each. NOTICE MY TRADE MARK, AND BEWARE OF SPURIOUS IMITATIONS.

H. LAMPLOUGH, 113, HOLBORN HILL, LONDON, E.C. [873

OFFICES FOR BRITISH AND FOREIGN PATENTS and for the REGISTRATION of DESIGNS,

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Full instructions may be obtained upon application to Payne and Talbot. [651

PATENT Metallic Air-Tight COFFINS, combining all the advantages of Wood, Shell, and Lead and Oak Coffins, can be obtained *at once* on application to the Head Office of the

PATENT METALLIC AIR-TIGHT COFFIN COMPANY,

158, *GREAT CHARLES STREET,* BIRMINGHAM.

Prices, &c., sent post free. [503

PROTECTION FROM FIRE

BRYANT & MAY'S
TRADE MARK
LIGHT ONLY ON THE BOX
TRADE MARK
PATENT SAFETY MATCHES

THE PUBLIC ARE CAUTIONED AGAINST
DANGEROUS IMITATIONS

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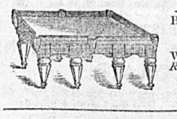

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Works & Show Room:
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SILENT SEWING MACHINE.

TRIAL
BEFORE
PURCHASE

MACHINES TAKEN IN EXCHANGE.

Machines on Hire.

T. S. TONGUE,
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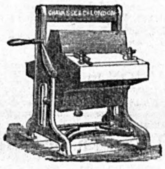
CHAVASSE AND CO.'S



AMERICAN "STAR" WASHING MACHINE.

The finest Fabrics uninjured, WASHES IN EIGHT MINUTES, and with this STAR MACHINE it has been proved that a FORTNIGHT'S WASHING for SIX PERSONS can be completed at a COST OF ONLY 3d., half-a-pound each of Soap and Soda being all that is requisite. ECONOMICAL, therefore Valuable in every Household, small or large.

PRICES FROM £3 10s.

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(Near the British Museum.) [64

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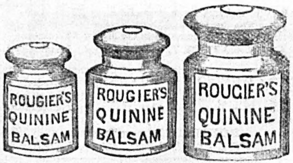
15 Years Foreman to HOLLINGSWORTH & SCRUTON.

D. CRANE,

TROUSERS & HUNTING BREECHES MAKER

82, *New-street.* [132



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QUININE BALSAM.

THIS PREPARATION is used for Restoring and Preserving the Hair, preventing its falling off or discolouring, also retaining its moisture longer than any other preparation of the kind, giving a beautifully brilliant lustre to the Hair, and preserving the Curl.

Coarse Hair it renders soft and silky, more pleasant to the feel and pliable to Curl, and must supersede all other articles professing the same qualities.

Prepared only by J. ROUGIER, Wholesale Perfumer, 55, Union Passage, Birmingham. Sold in Bottles at 1s., 2s., and 3s. each. N.B.—Every known article for the Toilet always on Stock. [37

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GENERAL DECORATOR,

5, *MOAT-ROW, SMITHFIELD,*

BIRMINGHAM.

Dealer in all kinds of Paper Hangings. [127

USED IN HER MAJESTY'S KITCHEN,

Sold Everywhere.

YEATMANS
YEAST
POWDER.

In 1d., 2d., & 3d. packets. and 6d. canisters.

AND IN THE ARMY AND NAVY.

Sold in Family Packets at 1s., 2s. 6d., and 5s. [43

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CHEF D'ŒUVRE

"In peace love tunes the shepherd's reed,
In war he mounts the warrior's steed."

LOVE-LORNE

"Love rules the court, the camp, the grove,
E'en conquerors feel the power of love."

ATELIER DES FLEURS,

2, New Bond Street, London.

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PALFREY'S, 4, BULL RING BIRMINGHAM.

JEWELLERS' & PAWNBROKERS'

CELEBRATED WINDOW MARKS.

An Endless Variety for Stationers', Tobacconists', and Fancy Trades.

WINDOW TICKETS FOR ALL TRADES

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China and Glass Warehouses, Grocers, Drapers, and Outfitters. The most effective and cheapest ever produced.

Largest variety in the world from 6d. the gross. [138

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W. AND H. DEW,

SUCCESSORS TO RICHARD LLOYD,

GENERAL MOURNING WAREHOUSEMEN AND UNDERTAKERS,

33, *NEW STREET, BIRMINGHAM.* [655

JOSEPH GILLOTT'S

STEEL PENS.

Sold by all Dealers throughout the World.

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EVERY DESCRIPTION OF MOURNING ATTIRE.

BLACK SILKS, in the GREATEST VARIETY

SHOW ROOMS for MOURNING, MILLINERY, MANTLES, and DRESSMAKING.

Funerals efficiently and economically CONDUCTED in every part of the country.

BACH AND BARKER,

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Works: 121, Great Charles-street, Birmingham,

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JOSEPH HARRIS, Proprietor.

The above are the largest and most complete Dye orks in the Midland Counties. [445

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The Patent Moleskin Lyons-Finish Velveteens in Black and Colours, to be obtained only at BAKER and CRISP'S, from 17s. 6d. Full Dress. Patterns free.
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Bright Satin Cloths, every Shade, equal to Silk, 10s. 9d. to 25s. Dress.
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Wool and Silk Serges, 7s. 11d. to 29s. 6d. Full Dress, Wool and Silk Repps, Roubaix and Coutil Cloths, 7s. 11d. to 29s. 6d. Full Dress.

SILK REPPS, very best quality, 27s. 6d.
Lorraine and Alsace Cloths,
Cashmere and Habit Cloths,
Diagonal and Honeycomb Cloths,
Genoa and Marine Serges,
6s. 11d. to 29s. 6d. Full Dress.

WINTER DRESSES.—A Speciality.—London Cords, 10s. 6d. and 15s. Kirtle Tartans, Acon Tweeds, Willow Cords and Clan Repps, Heather Tweeds, and Tullochgorum Costume Cloths, 8s. 9d. to 25s.

FRENCH MERINOS. — Seventy-nine Shades of Colour, 1s. 9d. per yard; very best, 2s. 6d.
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All-Wool Plaids, 1¼ yard wide, 5s. 6d. yard; worth 10s. 6d. Every clan.

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SILK VELVETS EXTRAORDINARILY CHEAP.

The War Panic has enabled BAKER and CRISP to buy and now offer the most extraordinary bargains ever seen in Black Lyons Silk Velvets,
viz., £2 14s. to 5 gs. Full Dress. [123

BIRMINGHAM CANAL NAVIGATIONS.—The Committee of the Birmingham Canal Company are prepared to RECEIVE OFFERS of LOANS, at Four per cent. per annum, for periods of three, five, or seven years, or to be repayable at six months' notice.

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A Commission of ½ (one half) per cent. is allowed to applicants.

Any amount of Stock, not being a fraction of a pound can be subscribed for and transferred.

Applications to be made to Mr. Robert Thomas, Clerk to the Company, at the Navigation Office, Paradise Street, Birmingham. [104

NOTICE.

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G. ORAM'S GREAT FURNISHING MART, 124, BROAD-STREET, BIRMINGHAM. Send for a List how to Furnish a House for £6, £20, £50, and £100. [576

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CANAL AND RAILWAY.

THE COMPANY send COAL by Railway, in Trucks to all Stations, and load Canal Boats at their extensive Wharves on the Anglesey Branch of the Birmingham Canal, adjoining the Colliery, and also at Hednesford Basin, Cannock.

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YARD or HOUSEHOLD COAL	10s. 6d.	,,
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HARD COAL	7s. 6d.	,,
ROUGH SLACK	4s. 6d.	,,
FINE SLACK	3s. od.	,,

CANNEL GAS COAL, 11,000 FEET OF GAS PER TON.

Illuminating power of Gas in Standard Candles, 32½ Candles.

For prices by Railway, including rate, apply to
JOHN N. BROWN,
56, *Union-passage, Birmingham.*
London Offices: 455, *New Oxford-street.*
June 1st, 1870. [793

THE EAST INDIA TEA COMPANY 9, Great St. Helen's, Bishopsgate-st., London, appoint Agents in every Town for the sale of their Teas. A good living may be made by this Agency. Apply for Prospectus as above. [853

WALKER'S CRYSTAL CASE WATCHES are superseding all others.—PRIZE MEDALS, London, 1862; Paris, 1867. Gold from £15 15s.; Silver from £6 6s.—68, Cornhill; 230, Regent-street; and 76, Strand. [842

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES REPOSITORY,
No. 1, CHEAPSIDE, BIRMINGHAM.

MR. J. M. CLAYWORTH begs to inform Noblemen, Gentlemen, and the Public n general, that he will hold his next STUD SALES on
THURSDAY, February 2nd.; and on
THURSDAY, February 16th.

Sales by Auction every Thursday; by Private Treaty, Daily. [35

BOWATERS' PRIZE ARTIFICIAL TEETH defy all Competition for NATURAL APPEARANCE, MASTICATION, ARTICULATION, and COMFORT. Teeth fixed from 5s. per Tooth, including all charges.

W. BOWATER, Surgeon Dentist, &c., 142, Broad-street, Birmingham.

BOWATER'S TOOTH-ACHE SPECIFIC, in Bottles, 6d. and 1s. each; by Post, 7 or 14 Stamps. [573

ACCIDENTS CAUSE LOSS OF LIFE.
Accidents cause Loss of Time.
ACCIDENTS CAUSE LOSS OF MONEY.

PROVIDE AGAINST ACCIDENTS OF ALL KINDS by Insuring with the RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY,

An Annual Payment of £3 to £6 5s. insures £1,000 at Death, or an allowonce at the rate of £6 per week for Injury.

£565,000 have been Paid as Compensation

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64, CORNHILL, and 10, REGENT-ST., LONDON.
WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary. [223

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LOMBARD-STREET, and CHARING CROSS,
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